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9 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0901142389 [Editorial Report]

Libya

The United States should "put arms aside" and open "direct negotiations" with Libya, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated in remarks reported by JANA. Speaking to foreign journalists on 7 January, the Libyan leader said he believes the Bush Administration is capable of this, as it must realize that the previous administration's "policy of force" is "ineffective" and has "failed miserably."

Al-Qadhdhafi challenged the United States to produce evidence that Libya has pursued terrorism and he stressed that Libya will continue its "legitimate struggle for just causes," including "the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea."

On the chemical weapons (CW) issue, he said Libya would like to be a member of an international committee that could be set up to inspect factories that "arouse suspicion," adding that Libya would be among those countries to be inspected. Among other Libyan comment on the CW issue, Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi told Paris radio that Libya would "certainly" be ready to sign an international treaty banning CW and he claimed Libya has unilaterally decided not to produce such weapons. Al-Talhi also denied a British press report that France is secretly negotiating the sale of Mirage-2000 aircraft to Libya.

In another development over the weekend, Libyan authorities asked some 250 journalists to leave the country immediately after visiting the factory at Al-Rabitah, AFP reported, noting that the reason given for the expulsion was lack of hotel space. Reporters were only allowed to view the Al-Rabitah plant from outside and were not allowed to enter the complex, AFP added.

However, Tripoli radio claimed that the journalists "walked around the factory" and JANA subsequently dismissed reports that their visit did not help determine the nature of the factory.

As for the 4 January U.S.-Libyan air battle, Tripoli television broadcast an "explanation" of the incident which included claims that 14 U.S. aircraft "suddenly appeared" in the area near the Libyan "reconnaissance" planes. Two of the U.S. F-14's "disappeared" and then "suddenly reappeared" and fired at the Libyan planes as the latter maintained their "regular flight." The use of long-range Sparrow missiles "clearly indicates" that the U.S. "ambush" was "premeditated," the television said. It added that there was "no excuse" for attacking the Libyan planes because they were inside Libyan airspace and far from the U.S. 6th Fleet. The U.S. videotape of the incident was dismissed by a Libyan information official as "irrefutable proof of U.S. lies," according to JANA. He claimed that U.S. authorities did not show the "real" film, but rather "made a film by drawing a sketch."

Chemical Weapons Conference

Over 50,000 Iranians suffered "severe and moderate" injuries as a result of Iraq's use of CW in the Iran-Iraq war, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told the Paris conference in a speech reported by IRNA. About 10 percent of these people died from their injuries, he revealed. Velayati warned that any attempt to "whitewash" the past will establish a "detrimental precedence" for the future and he stressed that Iran is ready to cooperate with any sincere initiative to eliminate CW.

The "slanders" in Velayati's address were "refuted" by an Iraqi official at the conference, INA stated. The official denied Velayati's claim that Iran did not use CW during the war, saying UN experts have confirmed that Iraqi personnel were subjected to CW attacks. However, an Iranian official told the conferees that UN experts' reports have not mentioned Iranian use of CW, IRNA noted.

In a speech to the conference reported by INA, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz voiced Iraq's view that any call for a total ban on CW must be coupled with a call for a complete ban on nuclear weapons. He linked this with the "serious threat to Arab national security" posed by Israel, "which possesses nuclear weapons in addition to chemical weapons and missiles that can reach many Arab cities." Commenting on 'Aziz' remarks, Iran's Velayati told IRNA that the Iraqi minister was highlighting the issue of Israeli nuclear weapons in a "desperate" attempt to overshadow Iraq's "crimes" in using CW.

Outside the conference, a Paris-based Kurdish organization protested the exclusion of Kurdish representatives from the meeting, AFP noted. The League of Kurdish Lawyers and Jurists said it was "indignant at the presence of representatives of the aggressor state, responsible for genocides, and the absence of representatives of the victims." The Kurdish statement claimed that Iraq used Iraqi Kurdistan as a CW "testing ground."

A Damascus radio commentary accused the United States of planning to exploit the Paris conference by making its resolutions serve "hostile U.S. designs" against Libya, thereby deflecting the conference from its original purpose of preventing CW proliferation. It said the United States, Israel, and Great Britain are seeking to use the conference as a vehicle for launching a media campaign against Libya in particular and Arab states in general.

As for Israel's position on the CW issue, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told a British journalist that Israel does not possess CW, adding that it will be "very strict" about not allowing such weapons to proliferate in the Mideast, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned that Syria possesses CW, Paris radio noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syrian-Arab Relations—Syria and Morocco have agreed to restore diplomatic relations in response to Saudi Arabia's "fraternal initiative" to eliminate obstacles to joint Arab action, Damascus radio announced 9 January. Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah, who met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during a 6-7 January visit to Damascus, noted that Syria's relations with Morocco and Iraq were among the topics covered in their talks, according to the radio.

A Damascus radio commentary likewise affirmed that the Saudi-Syrian discussions focused on ways to achieve Arab solidarity, linking this with Syria's desire for "joint Arab action to liberate the occupied Arab land." The achievement of Arab solidarity does not necessarily require resemblance of the political systems in all the Arab countries or identity of viewpoints on all issues, the radio emphasized. The radio also cited remarks by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam indicating that Syria still views Egypt as a potential partner in the struggle with the "Zionist enemy."

Egyptian-Iraqi Talks—After meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo 8 January, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan stated that their talks focused on Arab coordination and the importance of holding an Arab summit conference, INA reported. Iraq believes there is "more than one reason" for holding a summit as soon as possible, Ramadan said.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat-Husayn Talks—In remarks broadcast by Amman television, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated that his 6-7 January talks with King Husayn in Amman were "positive, constructive, and important," noting that the two sides discussed ways to advance the peace process and hold an international conference. The talks also dealt with the importance of holding an Arab summit to support the Palestinian cause, 'Arafat added. Speaking at a ceremony marking the conversion of the PLO office in Amman into an "embassy" of the "State of Palestine," 'Arafat viewed Jordan's approval for this move as evidence of its "true, strong, and important support for the Palestinian march toward regaining holy Jerusalem."

'Arafat also commented on the U.S.-Libyan air clash, saying it has an "adverse" effect on regional peace efforts and "heightens the drums of war" at a time when the PLO is calling for peace, according to Amman's SAWT AL-SHA'B.

Uprising Call—Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio broadcast "Call No 32" by the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising," which outlined a program for further action in the occupied territories up to 24 January. The call also warned the United States against leading the dialogue with the PLO into "labyrinths of procrastination" and it urged the U.S. Administration to recognize Palestinian national rights and acknowledge the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. On the situation in the territories, the uprising leadership welcomed the formation of the "popular Palestinian army," calling on all youths to join this force.

Israel

Territories—Police have concluded that "terrorists" were responsible for the murder of an Israeli taxi driver who was found shot dead in Samaria recently, Jerusalem radio reported. Police are also investigating the murder of a Palestinian notable in the Ramallah area, the radio said, noting that some Arab sources indicated he was killed for collaborating with the Israeli authorities. Another Palestinian from Qalqilyah was wounded in a knife attack for similar reasons, the radio disclosed.

Meanwhile, 24 Palestinians were injured in clashes with Israeli troops 7-8 January, Jerusalem radio noted. Five people were also wounded in a firebomb attack on an Israeli bank in Janin.

Foreign Relations—Israel and the USSR have agreed to expand the scope of activity of their consular delegations by allowing them to deal with political issues, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens disclosed in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio after an 8 January meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Arens noted that the Soviet side agreed to allow the Israeli delegation to transfer its premises to the building that formerly housed the Israeli Embassy in Moscow. A TASS report on the meeting said the two sides agreed to establish "appropriate" working conditions for each other's consular delegations.

Arens reaffirmed Israel's firm opposition to the U.S.-PLO dialogue during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz the same day, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israeli minister told journalists that his government will devote the next few weeks to consolidating a new peace plan which will be presented to the United States as soon as it is completed.

Lebanon

"Ferocious" battles erupted between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in southern Lebanon over the weekend, leaving 80 people dead and many others wounded, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A PLO spokesman disclosed that Palestinian forces are willing to deploy between the warring factions to end the bloodshed, the radio noted.

However, an Amal statement carried by Beirut radio warned against any attempt to involve "the Palestinian factor" in internal Lebanese conflicts. Amal accused Hizballah of bringing in "special groups" of its "renegades" from terrorist training camps to raid villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah that had hitherto been outside the area of conflict, adding that these groups committed "bestial massacres." Amal official Abu 'Ali Hammud was among those killed by the Hizballah gunmen, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The radio said that Amal was massing gunmen in preparation for an attempt to recapture several villages captured by Hizballah.

A further outbreak of Amal-Hizballah fighting in Beirut was halted after Syrian forces intervened on 8 January, according to Beirut radio.

Saudi Arabia

A group calling itself the "Al-Hijaz Islamic Jihad" claimed responsibility for the 4 January killing in Bangkok of the third secretary of the Saudi Embassy, according to AFP.

Iranian-Soviet Relations

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze described Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's recent message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a "turning point" that could be "very effective" in strengthening future ties, noting that Gorbachev intends to send a reply, IRNA reported.

Tehran radio had earlier broadcast the "text" of Khomeyni's message, which urged the Soviet leader to "seriously study and conduct research into Islam" and informed him that Iran can help fill the "ideological vacuum" in the Soviet system. While praising Gorbachev's "courage" in confronting realities and revising Soviet ideology, Khomeyni warned that the Soviet Union will not solve its problems by "taking refuge in the bosom of Western capitalism."

"I strongly urge you that in breaking down the walls of Marxist fantasies you do not fall into the prison of the West and the Great Satan," Khomeyni wrote. The main problem in the USSR is not the issue of ownership, economics, or freedom, but rather the lack of true faith in God, he asserted. He urged Gorbachev to revise previous Soviet policies that sought to eradicate religion and were "the greatest and biggest blow to the people of the Soviet Union."

Afghanistan

Afghan resistance leader Sebghatullah Mujadeddi announced that the mujahidin will not hold any more talks with the Soviet Union on the future of the country, according to AFP. He added that the mujahidin "will continue their jihad" until the Soviets withdraw totally from Afghanistan.

According to other AFP reports, Mujadeddi blamed Soviet envoy Yuliy Vorontsov for the deadlock in the talks and the break in negotiations. He confirmed that the mujahidin "rejected" Vorontsov's call for including the PDPA in any future broad-based government in Afghanistan. Mujadeddi said the Soviet side had no "practical and sensible" proposals and they "threatened" to supply the Kabul regime with new sophisticated weapons if their terms are not accepted. According to Islamabad radio, Mujadeddi also announced that a meeting of the proposed Shura (Consultative Council) will be called in Peshawar "to decide on the temporary leadership of Afghanistan."

TASS, reporting Vorontsov's 8 January press conference in Islamabad, noted his contention that there can be "no military solution" to the Afghan problem, and that a political settlement is possible through the formation of a broad-based government. He welcomed the mujahidin's proposal to establish a Shura but insisted that the PDPA should be included in it. An AFP report on the press conference noted Vorontsov's assertion that if there is "all-out" fighting and attacks on Soviet forces, "then we will have to fight and not withdraw."

As for the Afghan Government, AFP revealed that Najmuddin Kawiani, a member of the PDPA Politburo, told a press conference in New Delhi that President Najibullah will only consider stepping down from the leadership after a cease-fire has been agreed with the rebels, who must first agree to hold talks with the Kabul government.

Kabul radio reported a recent interview with Najibullah in which he asserted that the PDPA, with over 200,000 members, has been transformed into an "able and constructive" force and it will have a "formidable and historic" role in the country's destiny.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Holds Amman News Conference

Talks With Husayn 'Positive'

JN0801123489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said his talks with His Majesty King Husayn were constructive, positive, and important and were held in a cordial, fraternal atmosphere. The talks dealt with a number of issues, the most prominent of which was what the Palestinian march has attained following the PNC meetings and what took place in Geneva as well as the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian-Arab moves to bring about a just, comprehensive peace in the region, he added.

'Arafat said the talks focused on the importance of building a unified Arab stand through speeding up the convening of the coming summit conference. In a news conference held in Amman today, 'Arafat extended his thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for his fraternal, pan-Arab stand concerning the raising of the PLO's representation in Jordan to embassy level. He added: I thank his majesty in my own name and on behalf of my brother members of the Executive Committee and also on behalf of the Palestinian people for this splendid fraternal stand.

He expressed hope that the joint march between the two sisterly peoples will continue to realize our objectives and achieve a just peace for the sake of reaching Jerusalem. He said the Palestinian people's representatives emphasized in the Palestinian conferences held in Amman and Algiers throughout four sessions the importance of the distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Further on News Conference

JN0801131989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1211 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said the series of talks held yesterday and the day before yesterday with King Husayn of Jordan took place in a cordial, fraternal atmosphere and dealt with a number of important issues.

In a news conference, 'Arafat added that the talks discussed the importance of reaching Arab solidarity through speeding up the convening of an Arab summit. On the other hand, 'Arafat asserted that although he did not discuss in detail with King Husayn the issue of a confederation with Jordan, the Palestinian leadership is committed to the PNC resolutions calling for a confederation between the Jordanian and Palestinian states.

In the course of his comment on the U.S. role in solving the Middle East issue, 'Arafat recalled that Washington has political, historic, and moral responsibilities. He pointed to the fact that in 1956 Eisenhower exerted pressure to stop the tripartite aggression against Egypt. He said U.S. support for Israel has spoiled its pampered child. He emphasized that Israel will not change its stand rejecting peace due to Washington's unlimited support for it.

Regarding the bombing of the Pan Am plane, 'Arafat said this crime was intended to abort the peace process. He added that he does not accuse anyone, but he had warned, according to information he had received, that the Mosad was preparing for retaliatory operations to obstruct the peace march.

Amman Radio Report

JN0801173489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Amman—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said his talks with His Majesty King Husayn were constructive, positive, and important and were held in a cordial, fraternal atmosphere. [passage omitted]

He said the Palestinian people's representatives emphasized in the four Palestinian conferences held in Amman and Algiers the importance of the distinguished relations between the fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and that the future relations between them will be based on confederation.

'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian leadership is committed to this approach and concentrates on this approach in its talks. He pointed out that the Palestinian leadership has always gotten a good response from His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian officials toward this issue.

Regarding the formation of the provisional Palestinian government, he said that when the Palestinian government is formed, the Palestinian leadership will take into consideration the PNC resolutions which necessitate that the government should include national personalities from inside and outside the occupied territories.

Answering a question on what is required from the United States and the PLO at this stage, he said:

What is required from both parties is to agree in principle on the importance of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, especially since the international detente summit has explained that the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question are at the top of the hot issues in the world. It is known that solutions have been achieved for some of these issues, and some of them are still being discussed by the specialized committees to reach final solutions. The exception to this is the Palestine question, which has not yet been discussed due to the Israeli stand rejecting peace due to the unlimited U.S. support for Israel, which allows it to reject peace steps. Without this support, Israel would have accepted peace.

He stressed that the Israeli stand can be changed through the U.S. stand just as Eisenhower did when he imposed peace, not only on Israel, but also on two other big powers.

Regarding the political impasse being experienced by Israel now, he said: I am not responsible for the dreams of Shamir and Arens. They are living in prehistoric times. Their statements have nothing to do with the current political developments in the 20th century. When Arens speaks about some ideas in the Camp David Accords, he realizes that the other party to Camp David, Egypt, has announced, through President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, that the clause concerning the Palestinian people is over. He said that no one can turn back the clock.

'Arafat said that he had warned that the Mosad and others would carry out acts of sabotage to torpedo the peace process. He said that there are continuous attempts to disrupt peace and escalate the iron-fist policy against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories through further killing and repression.

At his news conference, which was attended by representatives of Jordanian, Arab, and foreign press, 'Arafat said that the number of the states that have officially recognized the Palestinian state has reached 94, and that some states, particularly those who have voted in our favor, are on their way to declaring their recognition.

Official on 'Arafat-Husayn Talks, Arab Summit

JN0701115089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 89 pp 14, 18

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Following the talks yesterday between His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman said that the meetings were held in a fraternal atmosphere, with 'Arafat explaining in detail the Palestinian moves made during the past month and the meetings that the Palestinian leader held with a number of European officials in Geneva, Vienna, and Italy.

'Abd al-Rahman said that His Majesty King Husayn expressed full support for the Palestinian peace initiative and congratulated Mr 'Arafat on the success scored by the PLO after this initiative.

He said that Jordan, which supported this initiative, will do its best to win world support for it so it may reach wider horizons, especially in Europe and the United States.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abd al-Rahman pointed out that 'Arafat apprised his majesty the king during the meeting that was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i of all the developments on the international scene and the PLO's future plan to intensify its political onslaught on all fronts.

He said that the PLO believes that the current stage necessitates the convening of an urgent Arab summit to support the Palestinian political initiative. The summit will witness the official return of Egypt to assume its natural role in the Arab League. After this return, he said, the unified Arab action will enter a new stage. This subject was discussed between His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat, he added.

'Abd al-Rahman said: In the event of the summit's convening, we hope a follow-up committee comprising a number of Arab leaders will be formed to tour the European countries and the United States urging these countries to move from the stage of encouragement and blessing of the Palestinian political initiative to the adoption of a practical stand that helps convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

On the conversion of the PLO office in Amman to an embassy, 'Abd al-Rahman said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are firm. In my assessment, he added, the fraternal relations and understanding between the two sides make us dispense with any embassy.

The Palestinian official added: Jordan and Palestine are twins and we are currently trying to find a formuala harmonious with a unified life. The relations are strong and characterized by clarity and concern by both sides to constantly promote them in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

On the European stand and the expected meetings, he said the Euroepan role is basic to the peace process and that Europe's interests in the Middle East are wide. It is perhaps peace, not the continuation of the current situation, that best serves these interests, he said.

He said that what is required is a practical European stand as the Palestinian peace initiative needs greater and bigger practical steps.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian official welcomed the statement by French President Mitterrand and France's decision to upgrade Palestinian representation to the level of a mission.

On the date of forming a provisional government, 'Abd al-Rahman said the government will not be formed until it is needed to exercise the required duties. The formation of the government, however, is certain as this is a PNC decision. The government will be declared at the appropriate time.

'Arafat Denies Having Information on Pan Am Crash
JN0801093589 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 89 pp 14, 18

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Asked by SAWT AL-SHA'B if a Palestinian ambassador to Jordan has been named, Yasir 'Arafat said an ambassador will be appointed following the anticipated PLO Executive Committee meeting. He continued, jokingly: The SAWT AL-SHA'B correspondent wants to record that I am undemocratic.

Asked if his talks with His Majesty King Husayn dealt with the subject of a confederation with Jordan, Yasir 'Arafat said: I proudly say that in its successive sessions in Algiers, Amman, and later twice in Algiers, our PNC clearly pointed to the distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. It also pointed out that the Palestinian people's respresentatives are committed to the establishment of this confederation between the State of Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. God willing, the two flags will be raised over holy Jerusalem.

Responding to another question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on whether a date has been fixed for an Arab summit, the PLO Executive Committee chairman said: We, as well as His Majesty King Husayn and other Arab brothers, are trying to reach a joint vision on the date of this Arab summit, which is supposed to be held in Riyadh, if it is an ordinary one.

Commenting on the U.S. air strike against the Libyan aircraft, 'Arafat said: We believe it has an adverse effect on the peace efforts in the region. It also complicates the situation and generates repercussions that are not only negative but also heighten the drums of war at a time when we are calling for peace in the Middle East.

Asked by SAWT AL-SHA'B if a Palestinian-American meeting is anticipated, 'Arafat said: Our ambassador in Tunis and the U.S. ambassador met a few days ago and the PLO welcomes such meetings at any time.

'Arafat denied press reports that he had information about the U.S. passenger plane blast and said: These statements were attributed to me, but have you heard them from me? We will not conceal anything we know.

AFP Cites 'Arafat on Bombing
NC0801165188 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Amman, Jan 8 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday implicitly linked Israeli intelligence with the explosion last month over Scotland of a Pan American jumbo jet.

"I am not accusing anyone," the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization said here following meetings with King Husayn. "But I recall that, based on my information, I had warned of terrorist actions by Mosad (the Israeli secret service) to torpedo peace efforts."

Mr. 'Arafat denounced the December 21 destruction of the plane, which took the lives of all 259 people aboard the jet and 11 on the ground, as a "crime" designed "to thwart peace efforts." [passage omitted].

Khalaf on U.S. 'Aggression' Against Libya
JN0601181089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member brother Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, held a news conference in Sanaa yesterday evening attended by correspondents of local news media as well as those of Arab and foreign news agencies and newspapers in Sanaa.

Brother Salah Khalaf began his news conference by praising the militant relations binding the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. He paid tribute to the YAR's firm, principled stand supporting the Palestine question and enhancing the just Palestinian struggle until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinians' national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Brother Salah Khalaf also paid tribute to the results of his meeting with the brother president leader, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and said: We had the honor of meeting the brother president and reviewed with him all developments of the Palestine question. We found a very favorable response regarding support for the Palestinian revolution. The president also affirmed the continued support of the YAR—leadership, government, and people—for the popular Palestinian revolt being staged in the occupied territories and for the PLO's political moves.

In his news conference, Brother Salah Khalaf answered numerous questions on the situation in the occupied territories in light of the continuation of the blessed popular revolt being staged against the Zionist occupiers, the latest developments in the Palestine question, and the situation in the Arab and international arenas.

In his news conference, brother Salah Khalaf touched on the U.S. aggression against Libya and said this U.S. aggression against Libya is tantamount to aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He affirmed that the U.S. belligerence being demonstrated through the deployment of fleets in the Mediterranean cannot bring about understanding among peoples. He pointed out that the incident involving the downing of the two Libyan planes cannot be separated from the continuous U.S. threats voiced against Libya more than

2 months ago. He said that this makes this U.S. aggression against Libya premeditated. He added this aggression is a small part of a larger aggression targeting Libya.

Brother Salah Khalaf asserted that this aggression is a provocation to the Arab nation's sentiments and a break with the norms and rules approved by the United Nations. He referred to the U.S. allegations on tackling all problems pertaining to the existence of a Libyan chemical weapons production plant and said:

Those who see with one eye a Libyan chemical weapons plant must also use the other eye to see hundreds of plants that produce toxic gases being used against our people in the occupied territories—plants that produce gases to strike at secure civilians. They must also look at the Israeli nuclear reactor. Otherwise, we will be using a double standard in international relations. One party should not have the exclusive right to decide to punish another state, considering this a break with all the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Brother Abu Iyad added: Now that Libya has been the target of aggression, I believe that any other world state might be exposed to similar aggression. Any state with the weapons and power might decide to launch an aggression against any other state. This means that the norms governing relations among states will be blackened.

Abu Iyad affirmed that the Palestinian revolution stands alongside Libya and the Libyan people and said: We believe that any aggression against Libya will prompt the Arab nation to side with Libya. He added: Following the termination of the Iraq-Iran war, a big clamor surfaced over the presence of plants in Iraq. The objective behind this clamor was to prevent the presence of Arab weapons that we can use to defend ourselves. Here I am not referring to chemical weapons. No, I am referring to weapons in general.

In his news conference, brother Abu Iyad went on to say: Any party from the leading nations, especially the big powers such as the United States, could have requested the United Nations to inspect all chemical weapons plants in the region. Thus, the resolution, which might have been passed by the United Nations in this regard, would have been the proper way to tackle this issue. The course pursued by the United States is the law of the jungle.

Spokesman on Government, Candidate Ministers

JN0701141389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has told our radio that the PLO believes that among the priorities at the present time is the convocation of an Arab summit to adopt joint Arab action for bolstering the PLO's political plan. He added that the PLO hopes this summit will produce a standing Arab committee on the level of Arab kings and leaders to support the PLO's stands and hold contacts with the countries which influence the peace process to enhance the chances of the convocation of an international conference.

On the other hand, 'Abd al-Rahman stressed that the formation of a Palestinian provisional government is linked to the tasks of this government and that is its role in an international conference. He pointed out that while there are no obstacles on the Palestinian domestic front with respect to the formation of this government, its formation continues to depend on the timing of the internationsal conference as this government will represent the Palestinian people in this conference.

He referred to the lists that some Israeli quarters have disseminated containing the names of those who may be appointed in this government. He said that the dissemination of such lists is only an attempt to create confusion among the Palestinians. He said that the discussion of those who will be members in this government is a premature matter and pointed out that only the regulations and the legal bases of this government have been discussed.

PLO Rejects Israeli Offer of Elections

LD0801100089 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tuesday, yesterday described the moves to hold elections in the occupied Palestinian homeland on condition that an end is put to the uprising, and which Israel is trying to weave, as a new desperate attempt to beat the uprising and to obliberate its achievements.

He also rejected as absolutely untrue news agencies' claims about an alleged statement made by Mr 'Arafat in response to the statement made by the mayor of Bethlemen about the new Israeli moves.

Moreover, Palestinian sources told TAP yesterday evening that Mr 'Arafat warned in recent statements against the danger of Israeli electoral maneuvers. He also announced the PLO's rejection of this move which is a desperate attempt to revive the autonomy plan which the Palestinian people has already opposed and thwarted.

PLO's Al-Hasan on Ties With U.S., 'Uprising'

JN0801201189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PNC's foreign relations committee, by Antoine Nawfal in Paris—recorded; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Nawfal] Apparently, contacts with the American side are serious and the United States is very serious in talks with the PLO.

[Al-Hasan] The United States is serious in talks but I do not know if it is very serious. We are still at the beginning of the road. The first meeting was almost entirely concerned with protocols in order to inform the PLO of the U.S. decision. The meeting that took place this week is connected with the plane crash or with terrorism.

However, we are still waiting for Bush to take over as president and for Baker to take over as secretary of state in order to see how the United States moves with the talks because there should exist a permanent U.S. delegation and a permanent PLO delegation to begin a long dialogue to know each other's views in an accurate, frank manner. Then we begin the essential discussion of the international conference and the political solution. If this begins, then the United States will be very serious, not merely serious.

In general, international public opinion, including U.S. public opinion, clearly supports this trend. And although our people support what happened, they are still cautiously awaiting the U.S. position during the coming talks when Bush begins his term.

[Nawfal] The impression we get is that in talking with the Palestinian side, the U.S. side is concentrating on the issue of terrorism and on the search for who caused the plane crash.

[Al-Hasan] In fact while in Europe, I had the opportunity to listen to TV reports that are carried via satellite. I was extremely astonished that a superpower such as the United States treated 'Arafat's statement in the way it did, especially the way Reagan and the FBI director treated it. Mr 'Arafat denounced the plane crash and considered it a crime against humanity. This is a correct, courageous, and humanitarian stand. He announced his readiness to help expose the perpetrators. This is also a responsible, courageous, and positive stand.

Then we heard Reagan say that he heard 'Arafat's statement but had not received any information from 'Arafat. As for the FBI director, he said 'Arafat possesses a huge amount of information. He said: If 'Arafat sends us the information he has, his dossier will be very useful in revealing links in the plane crash.

In my opinion, this behavior is very naive. It is devoid of the sense of responsibility and the meaning of cooperation. First of all, the PLO has no dossier about the plane incident because it did not know about it. Secondly, 'Arafat's information is the property of the Palestinian people and not anyone else's. Cooperation in confronting (?terrorism) cannot be done through TV screens [words indistinct].

Therefore, I hope the U.S. officials will stop using this method. I hope that serious responsibility will govern cooperation in confronting international terrorism in accordance with the definition of terrorism in international law and at the United Nations. [Nawfal] Let us return to the uprising if you please. There are Palestinians who say it is possible to stop the uprising provided certain gains are realized such as elections and the release of detainees. What is your opinion?

[Al-Hasan] The uprising is a popular movement, a popular revolt. Therefore, the decisionmakers are the people and their representatives. I think that during the uprising the Palestinian cause reached a stage where nobody, regardless of his social or political status, can speak at will in terms of the uprising and the Palestinian cause. There should be discipline. All statements should be submitted to the leadership; either the central leadership outside the occupied territory as represented by 'Arafat, or the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

If everyone assumes the responsibility of speaking in his own name, this will lead to meaningless confusion. This might work against certain central tactics or certain leading trends in the decisionmaking center. It is time to have discipline. Nobody should express his own opinions in the press or on the level of foreign embassies and governments. Anybody who has a proposal can simply send it to brother Yasir 'Arafat and it will be considered. The uprising and its course is continuously engaging the attention of the PLO and the central leadership.

Therefore, I believe that brother Ilyas Frayj made such a mistake. He has acted in a way that is no longer applicable.

[Nawfal] But Frayj has abandoned his error.

[Al-Hasan] That is right because he meant well, but Frayj did not realize the difference between his statements before the uprising—where there was wide room for maneuver—and the present time when the Zionist enemy and the Western media are waiting for any PLO mistake to use it to abort 'Arafat's peace offensive. Hence, care should be taken in both words and deeds. We must notice that Arens attempted to exploit brother 'Arafat's statement on this subject. Some papers began to write editorials on this subject despite the fact it is an ordinary event.

However, this is the reality. Our mistakes are highlighted and I hope that all of our brothers who have social or political status should realize that we are living a phase of struggle to win public opinion. The means of this struggle is the media and mistakes are very difficult for us to handle because the media are still under the influence of the [word indistinct] Western world, especially in the United States.

[Nawfal] The dynamism which the PLO has acquired has forced it to make further steps. What will be the next step? Could it be a provisional government?

[Al-Hasan] The provisional government must be formed. The PLO Central Council has chosen the committee to draft the bylaws of the government. As soon as this committee finishes its work, the provisional government will be formed. Then this government will issue its political program as well as the aims of its political work as a government, based on the recent PNC decisions.

[Nawfal] Can you give a timeframe for announcing this government?

[Al-Hasan] I cannot give the time, but, as I understand the course of events, I hope it will not exceed March or April because we must keep pace with the U.S.-PLO dialogue and the new Bush administration. We must keep pace with it through a government. [passage omitted]

'Uprising' Leadership Issues Call No 32

JN0701214189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1956 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Call No 32, the "call of the revolution and continuity," issued by the PLO—the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising (UNLU)—date, place not given]

[Text] No voice rises above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO.

O masses of the independent Palestinian state: Your brave, great uprising, which is entering its 14th month these days with a revolutionary perseverance and continuous sacrifice, has forced the United States to lift its international isolation through the decision to begin dialogue with the PLO. On your behalf, we say to the United States that this step is only a minimum and modest limit for your acceptance of its political role as an accepted mediator.

If it really wants to gain this status with eligibility, then it must accompany its dialogue with the official recognition of the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and our national rights of repatriation, self-determination, and realizing the sovereignty of our independent state on our national soil.

The UNLU warns against pushing the dialogue into the labyrinths of procrastination and mockery of the pure blood and great sacrifices of our people's masses. We also call on all European states to raise the level of their political stand so that their peace initiative will include the realization of our national inalienable rights and to exert pressure in order to convene a fully authorized international conference, with the participation of the PLO in a separate delegation and on equal footing with other sides, under the supervision of the United Nations. The UNLU also calls on all countries to announce recognition of our independent Palestinian state and to translate this by opening embassies in their countries.

O masses of our heroic people, we are confident that through your persistent struggle you will defeat and foil the conspiracy of the terrorist Shamir to stop the uprising, hold elections, and beautify autonomy. Under the shadow of occupation this only constitutes an attempt to bypass the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of our people. You will inevitably foil this conspiracy just as you have foiled before the plans of autonomy, civilian administration, sharing of responsibilities, and the Jordanian option.

The UNLU asserts that the weak voices made by some weak people are coherent with this conspiracy that targets your valiant uprising and heroic confrontation against Zionist terrorism, which is embodied in the Israeli state. Hence, the continuation and escalation of the uprising, the manifestation of the sacred Palestinian stone, and the continued escalation of struggle in all its forms are dependent neither on the U.S. dialogue nor on the municipal elections. They are dependent on the political achievements of our legitimate leadership, the PLO; the evacuation of occupation troops from our Palestinian territory; and enjoying our freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

The UNLU asserts that the stand toward any Israeli side, or individual, is dependent on its recognition of the PLO, the independent state, our heroic people's inalienable rights, and our legitimate right to struggle in order to achieve our national objectives.

On your behalf, O masses of our people, we say the Zionist state continues and escalates its terrorism against our masses in all positions whenever their voices denouncing the terrorism are getting louder. Occupation authorities can practice deportation now and go to extremes in massacres and savage oppression. But we promise you that the day of victory and return is coming with further struggle and national unity. The escalation of the terrorist Zionist campaign set a record in the number of killed and wounded last month. In light of this escalation, the UNLU urges the international community to assume its humanitarian and cultural responsibilities, through swift action, to achieve international protection of the occupied territories. It also urges that the international community dispatch fact-finding missions to expose the occupation's practices and massacres against our people and its violation of Palestinian human rights in all walks of life.

O masses of our heroic people, the UNLU proudly praises the heroic deeds of our struggler people in the heroic Gaza Strip and appreciates their steadfastness in the face of the forms of terrorist repressive measures, including premeditated killings, woundings, deportation, siege, demolishing of houses, and imposing of curfews. While doing so, the UNLU also lauds the steadfastness of all the masses of our people in the villages, cities, and camps. It also praises the lawyers strike. It calls for exercising all forms of solidarity with the detainees and their families.

The UNLU also congratulates the masses of our people on the birth of the identity—the popular Palestinian army . It stresses that this army is the army of the PLO, the army of the blessed uprising, which is basically composed of the strike forces, includes all sides, and comes under the instruction and orders of the UNLU. Greetings to this army and to all the national arms that join it and support its development and effectiveness. It calls on all Palestinian youths to join this national army.

The UNLU also appreciates the Palestinian woman's role in bolstering steadfastness, in strengthening the people's forces, and in protecting the uprising. It also highly appreciates the steadfastness of the students who pay the tax of occupation from their future. It calls on them to escalate their struggle and to cling to the homeland. It appreciates the merchants' steadfastness in the face of the tax campaigns and calls on them to escalate their resistance and to reject submission regardless of how dear sacrifices are.

O masses of the blessed uprising, the struggler arm of the PLO in the State of Palestine, the UNLU around which you are rallying and implementing its militant program—the program of the Palestinian people—stresses to you that the era of emancipation and liberation will only come through the continuous escalation of all forms of the popular uprising. To achieve the objective of breaking relations with the occupation and escalating the aspects of civil disobedience in all its forms, the UNLU urges you to abide by the following steps of action:

The UNLU calls on all strugglers in all positions to safeguard the unity of the local leadership and the popular committees and to initiate the forming of these committees in all areas and to complete their quorum if any of them was subjected to the tyranny of occupation. It also calls on them to select a day in which all resources shall be mobilized to stage mammoth popular demonstrations during the period of every call.

It also calls on them to supervise, through their specialized committees, the control of boycotting Israeli goods to which there are alternatives from our national products, particularly foodstuffs, detergents, furniture, cigarettes, agricultural products, animal wealth, and dairy products, with the need to prepare a detailed list and to distribute it to merchants to abide by it and to take to account anyone who violates this.

The UNLU calls on the masses of the uprising to form popular courts to try thieves, agents, and brokers who encroach on people's rights and carry out acts of burglary. At the same time, it calls for carrying out cooperative projects in every village and quarter in order to be an example for the independent local economy, for expanding agricultural investment, for land reclamation, and for supervising supply and storage so as not to be surprised by the problems of siege and lengthy strikes that might be experienced by our march with the escalation of the uprising. The UNLU reiterates the need for collective rsignations from all the departments of the Civil Administration, the Jerusalem municipality, the Al-Qishlah, the traffic and car registration authority, and the appointed municipal and rural committees. The UNLU warns those who are tasked with the attempt to form the appointed muncipal and rural committees [as heard] and affirms to them that their suspect moves are exposed to watchful eyes and the people's judgment on them will not be delayed.

The UNLU calls on the strike forces to firmly confront all those who try to retract their resignation from the departments of the Civil Administration, the police, and the appointed committees.

The UNLU calls on our people in Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state, to boycott the municipal elections and ostracize all those who promote them. The UNLU invites all our people's institutions to adopt a plan for Palestinizing these institutions with the emphasis that this step of independence does not conflict with, and does not harm the bonds of amity, brotherhood, solidarity, and unity aspirations with the fraternal Jordanian people in particular and the Arab peoples in general. It also calls on the union of the educational sectors to form a higher popular education committee to protect our students against the policy of stultification and cultural repression.

The UNLU calls on the owners of private and public cars to resist the handing over of their cars to the forces of occupation which are then used by the enemy organs to storm the uprising areas.

The UNLU calls on the owners of industries and national establishments not to deduct the days of comprehensive strike from the wages of the workers, to compensate them for the inflation and the devaluation of the [Jordanian] dinar, to expand their activities so they may employ and absorb more workers, and to halt their measures against industrious workers and desist from dismissing them from work. The persistence by some along this course will place them in confrontation with the masses and the watchful eyes of the uprising.

The UNLU calls on all the detainees who are threatened with deportation to reject all forms of bargaining and deals on their presence in the homeland. Salvation should not be carried out individually and repatriation is inevitable. It calls on the lawyers and the detainees not to enter into any deals with the military prosecution in the repressive Zionist courts.

The UNLU calls on all the press, media, humanitarian, and judicial institutions and the jurists to intensify their efforts to reveal the facts and expose the Israeli repressive measures through the holding of news conferences, seminars, and lectures on a large scale.

The UNLU values the positive stands and response to its calls by the owners of real estate who have committed themselves to alleviating the economic burdens and to reducing the rents through solidarity and social cohesion. It calls on all these owners to continue to abide by this framework.

The UNLU calls on the masses of the uprising in all locations to form more guard committees, as well as medical and first aid committees, to confront the massacres and the escalation of the occupation's repression.

While affirming the importance and need of national unity for all the sectors of our people for the confrontation of the occupation and the escalation of the uprising, the UNLU, from the premise of national responsibilty, reiterates its invitation to the Hamas movement and calls on it to coordinate with the UNLU on the basis of a militant program to escalate the uprising and repulse the occupation.

The UNLU congratulates the Christian communities which adopt the Eastern calendar on the occasion of the New Year and for limiting this occasion to the performance of religious rites.

O masses of our great people, the people of the PLO, and the people of the independent state, while calling on you to escalate the struggle and the popular resistance with the stone, Molotov cocktails, the war of knives, the setting of the occupation's institutions on fire, the formation of more popular committees, the joining of the popular army, and the confrontation of the storming operations, the UNLU emphasizes the importance of carrying out the following militant activities:

—January 9: A day of comprehensive strike on the occasion of the uprising's entering into its 14th month.

—January 10: The day of the sacred Palestinian stone for escalating the uprising and for reaffirming its perpetuation until freedom and national independence are won.

—January 11: A day for deportees, martyrs, the wounded, and detainees. During this day visits will be made to the wounded and to the families of martyrs, detainees, and deportees to express solidarity with them.

—[January] 12, 13, 14 will be days for afforestation, agriculture, and land reclamation vis-a-vis the deliberate sabotage at the hands of the occupation authorities of our agricultural produce and the uprooting of our blessed trees. We urge the popular committees to carry out afforestation and agriculture.

—January 15 will be a general strike day on the occasion of Al-Aqsa Day as well as a day for confrontation and defiance of the Zionist settlements' hotbeds around the first of the two kiblahs and the third holy mosque.

—[January] 16 and 17 will be days for intensifying popular education in all positions and for confronting the policy of stultification.

—January 18 will be a day for staging marches and women's sit-ins in protest of the policy of repression against prisoners and detainees in Ansar 2 and 3, Al-Zahiriyah, and other detention camps.

—January 19 will be a day for mobilization and national education. On that day lectures and seminars pertaining to the uprising's great march will be held.

—[January] 20 and 22, Friday and Sunday, will be days for performing special prayers for the souls of the martyrs and for the staging of popular marches.

—January 21 will be popular wrath day. Palestinian masses will take to the streets and Palestinian flags will be hoisted. Also on that day there will be violation of the curfew and siege so the Palestinian voice will rise high to the sky.

—January 24 will be a general strike day in protest of the policy of demolishing Palestinian houses and in solidarity with the besieged positions and to show refusal of yielding to the occupation authorities' orders.

Greeetings, all greetings to the masses of our heroic people in all militant positions. Further struggle until the achievement of sovereignty over the land of our independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital under the banner of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people's masses wherever they are present. Certainly, we will triumph.

Signed: The PLO, the UNLU.

Algeria

Libyan Envoy on U.S. Moves Over Chemical Plant

LD0801120589 Algiers APS in English 1024 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, 8/1/89 (APS)—"Libya asked the United Nations to constitute an international neutral commission to check up the authenticity of our affirmations as to the firm of manufacture of medicines," the secretary of the Arab Libyan fraternity bureau declared on Saturday.

In a press conference, Mr Sa'd Mustafa Mujbir denounced "the arrogant attitude of the head of the White House towards the Libyan people, by persisting to make the international community believe that the firm of medicines was destined to the manufacture of chemical armaments contrarily to reality".

The secretary of the Libyan bureau of fraternity estimated that "the present campaign led by President Reagan against Libya comes in the frame of the U.S. logic to try to ban (?the acquisition) of high technology". Stressing that "the U.S. pressures aim first of all at submitting Libya to the U.S. diktat".

After having noted that there is till now no international legislation banning the creation of firms for the manufacture of chemical armaments and recalled that the protocol of 1925 forbade the use and not the manufacture of chemical armaments, Sa'd Mustafa Mujbir pointed out that his country "refused to the United States to play the part of gendarme in the world".

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Comments After Meeting With Shultz

JN0601183689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMt 6 Jan 89

[Text] Following his meeting with George Shultz in Paris today, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid spoke to reporters. Faridah al-Shubashi was there.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shubashi] Mr Deputy, you have told us that you would meet with Mr Shultz and will talk with him about an international conference. Have you discussed this issue?

['Abd al-Majid] In fact, as usual, the meeting was a cordial one. It was an opportunity to talk with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz about joint issues related to Egyptian-U.S. relations, which are good, thank God, and about peace efforts.

He stressed to me the U.S. concern about continuing to give the peace process a push forward. I expressed appreciation for his role in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and our hope that this dialogue will continue and lead to a just, comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and that the Palestinian people will regain their national rights. At the same time, we talked about the current conference and the expected moves. These are the topics we had time to talk about.

[Al-Shubashi] Have you raised the issue of the Libyan incident, the downing of the two Libyan planes, or Israel's possession of nuclear bombs?

['Abd al-Majid] No, we have not raised this issue. [end recording]

Asked about what is expected of the Paris conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd al-Majid] What is expected from the conference—the conference is, of course, supposed to be a political move aimed at banning the use of chemical weapons. In fact, we have our own viewpoint on this issue; namely, that the conference should not discuss chemical weapons alone. It should view all weapons of mass destruction, which have the same horrible consequences as chemical weapons.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr Deputy, this means you have raised the issue of an international conference with Shultz. Have you raised this issue?

['Abd al-Majid] No, we talked about giving the peace process a push forward, including holding an international conference. In fact, since last spring, the U.S. secretary of state has launched his plan, which includes major principles regarding the peace move. We repeat that Shultz began his plan in May and paid several visits to the region. It was very clear that President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government expressed support for the U.S. plan at the time. [end recording]

Mubarak, Saddam Husayn Confer by Telephone

NC0801121189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak made a telephone call to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at noon today. The two leaders conferred on a number of important Arab issues and discussed the meeting of the Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Committee. The two also affirmed the two countries' eagerness to promote Egyptian-Iraqi cooperation in all fields for the benefit of the two fraternal peoples.

Reportage on Visit by Iraq's Taha Yasin Ramadan

Arrives in Cairo 7 Jan

NC0701120189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Cairo at noon today for an official 3-day visit to Egypt. He will chair the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Joint Committee, which is due to hold its first session at the cabinet offices this evening.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi led the delegation which received the Iraqi guest at the airport. The delegation included the ministers of social insurance and social affairs, transport and communications, electricity, war production, industry, cabinet affairs, scientific research, economy, finance, justice, and emigration; the governor of Cairo; representatives of the main branches of the Armed Forces; and members of the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo.

Also present was 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq, minister of manpower and training and the chairman of the honor escort party that will accompany the Iraqi guest during his visit to Egypt.

Meets With Sidqi

JN0701182389 Baghdad INA in English 1740 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 7, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy premier of Iraq and Dr 'Atif Sidqi Egyptian prime minister held here tonight a closed-door meeting. The meeting was attended by the countries' ambassadors to Baghdad and Cairo.

Received by Mubarak

JN0801111889 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 8, INA—President Husni Mubarak of Egypt received here today member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan.

The RCC member conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Husni Mubarak and his wishes of progress and prosperity for the Egyptian brotherly people. [Words indistinct] his serious keenness on developing them in all fields.

The Iraqi first deputy premier acquainted the Egyptian president with developments of Iraqi-Iran negotiations and affirmed Iraq's adherence to its full rights and non-squandering them however long the negotiations continued.

Means of developing bilateral cooperation in all fields and confirmation of the importance of coordination and consultation between Iraq and Egypt to strengthen their cooperation and the Arab joint action and pushing it in the manner that achieves the Arab nation's might and solidarity were discussed during the meeting.

President Mubarak asked Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and strong appreciation of the personal relations between him and President Husayn in addition to Egypt's government and people's appreciation of Iraq and their serious keenness on expanding the relations with it in all fields.

President Mubarak also confirmed Egypt's stand and its support for Iraq's efforts which are aiming at consolidating and unifying the Arab stand.

Comments After Meeting

NC0801140788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of Iraq, has expressed his admiration for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his appreciation for what took place when his excellency received him today. Ramadan said: I am happy to be a means of connection between Presidents Mubarak and Saddam Husayn at a time when the Arab nation is experiencing special conditions.

In statements following his meeting with President Mubarak today, the Iraqi official said: We consider these circumstances as fit for the new rennaissance, which calls for more coordination and cooperation among the principal Arab countries, especially between Iraq and Egypt.

Ramadan referred to a revival of Arab coordination and emphasized the importance of convening the Arab summit and of the topics which must be discussed. He pointed out that President Mubarak stressed the need to strengthen and emphasize the cooperation between the two countries in particular, and to strengthen the Arab cooperation in general.

Ramadan added that he had conveyed a message from the Iraqi president to his brother President Husni Mubarak. He added that he had discussed all topics mentioned in the message with President Mubarak, and that he carries President Mubarak's answer on how to deal and face the events.

The Iraqi official said that he will convey this answer to President Husayn and that it contributes to the strengthening of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he sensed an identity of views between Egypt and Iraq in all fields.

Concerning the need to convene an Arab summit, the Iraqi official stressed that there is a persistent need to convene the Arab summit as soon as possible, because there are important issues kwhich require the crystallization of a clear Arab stand. They include the Palestinian issue, particularly after the PNC proclamation of the Palestinian state. Therefore, there must be an Arab stand of support and an objective program to be agreed upon with the PLO to back its stands in the international arena.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that there is also the Lebanese problem, noting that this problem should not be left ignored in this way; that is, like a big crack in the Arab wall. He stressed that Lebanon is an Arab country and needs Arab care and an Arab attitude toward it to underline its unity and Arabism.

He also stressed the need to decide the issue of Egypt's return to its leading role in the Arab arena and hence to the Arab League at the League's first meetings.

Regarding the massing of Iranian troops on the Iraqi borders, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that there are no fears from this and said that there has been enough shedding of blood.

Regarding the U.S. campaign on chemical weapons and whether there is a justification for it, particularly with the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Iraqi official said: There is no justification for this campaign. We question the motive for it and look suspiciously at the reasons for holding this conference. He noted that all the Arabs, including Egypt, are committed to the Geneva convention.

Taha Yasin Ramadan then asked: Are the way this issue has been raised and the premeditated motives and results of this conference meant for Arab capabilities? For example, Israel alone has the nuclear force in the Arab region and it also has the chemical capacity, but when they find that there is a scientific and technical ability on this side of the Arab region then they start trembling.

Regarding the role of Egyptian workers in fraternal Iraq after the establishment of peace on its territories, the Iraqi official said: We do not have Egyptian workers in Iraq, and there is nothing new. Egyptians were there before the war, stayed there during the war, and lived with us in one country. They will remain after the war. He added: Their conditions change and develop, and these conditions improve or get worse in light of our conditions because we and they are the same in everything.

Regarding the results of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi committee, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the level of relations between Iraq and Egypt is exemplary in significance and essence but not in volume, because we are still at the beginning of the road. He added that the material volume of many relationships could be immense, noting here Japanese-Iraqi relations, and said that their material volume is large but their relations are not exemplary. He stressed that the start of Iraqi-Egyptian relations was a sound one because it was built on the basis of common understanding, dialogue, frankness, brotherhood, and mutual desire. He added that the assessment of an exemplary relationship does not fall within the context of bilateral relations, as it is a step on the road of a collective relationship among the Arab countries.

Regarding Iraq's future drive toward reconstruction, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: The ambitions are great, but there are factors in the current stage which play their role in restraining these ambitions. He noted here the issues of debts, the reconstruction campaign, and the citizens' needs, which, he said, are all factors of pressure that prevent the reconstruction process from their carried out in full capacity. He added that all these obstacles will be overcome within a limited time.

Concluding his statements, Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed optimism on peace even though the Iranians' intentions are not in the direction of peace, a peace imposed on them in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598. He said: The Arab summit must be held during the first quarter of this year because there are urgent issues that must be tackled. He stressed that a postponement of the Arab summit is not in the Arab nation's interest.

INA Report on Meeting

JN0801150289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1148 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (INA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, here this morning. Ramadan conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Husni Mubarak as well as his wishes of progress and prosperity for the Egyptian people.

Ramadan stressed President Saddam Husayn's pride in his brotherly relations with President Mubarak as well as the appreciation of the Iraqi people and leadership for the distinguished bilateral relations. He also affirmed President Saddam Husayn's eagerness to promote these relations in all areas.

Ramadan briefed the Egyptian president on developments in the Iraq-Iran war and stressed that Iraq adheres to its full rights and will not relinquish any of them no matter how long the negotiations last. During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation in all areas and also stressed the importance of coordination and consultations between Iraq and Egypt to increase their cooperation and strengthen the joint Arab action to bolster the Arab nation's power and solidarity.

President Mubarak asked Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn, his pride in his personal relations with his excellency, the pride of the Egyptian Government and people in Iraq, and Egypt's eagerness to expand relations in all areas.

During the meeting, President Mubarak stressed Egypt's support for Iraq's efforts to bolster and unify the Arab position.

Following the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he conveyed President Saddam's message to his brother President Husni Mubarak dealing with bilateral relations and developments in the Arab situation. In a statement to reporters, he said he discussed with President Mubarak all topics of the message, which expresses President Saddam's views on relations and ways to deal with the events.

Ramadan said that this important, interesting, and brotherly meeting expresses a new progress, which needs more consultations among the Arab countries, especially between Iraq and Egypt. He also explained that he and President Mubarak discussed the issue of Arab coordination and stressed the importance of holding an Arab summit conference as well as the topics that should be discussed by the summit.

Ramadan said that Iraq believes there is more than one reason for holding the Arab summit conference as soon as possible, especially since there are important issues that need a clear-cut and declared Arab position like the Palestine question following the declaration of the Palestinian state. He added there should be an Arab support in accordance with a program worked out in cooperation with the PLO to bolster the Palestinian people's struggle in the various arenas, especially in the international arena. He also stressed the importance of the Lebanese issue and said: We should not leave this issue as it is because it represents a deep split in the Arab nation, which is tampered with by Syria as it wishes while the other Arabs sit back with folded arms. Taha Yasin Ramadan added: We do not think Lebanon should be a ranch of Al-Asad or any other party. It is an Arab country that belongs in the Arab nation. Lebanon needs efforts to preserve its Arab character and unity.

He emphasized the need for the coming Arab summit to be decisive on the question of Egypt regaining its pioneering Arab role and returning to the Arab League.

He stressed that he found President Mubarak committed to further bilateral cooperation as well as inter-Arab cooperation. Taha Yasin Ramadan added: There had been an identity of views on all matters that came up.

Asked to evaluate the meetings of the joint higher committee, Ramadan said: It is not an overstatement to say that relations between Egypt and Iraq are exemplary. This is despite the fact that we are still at the beginning. Relations between Iraq and Egypt were built on sound bases and on common perceptions, dialogue, frankness, kinship and a mutual desire to set up such bilateral ties as would serve as a model for other Arab states.

The deputy prime minister again said he was delighted at the results of the meetings and said: The common ground between us is getting more substantial all the time. On Iranian troop concentrations, the RCC member said it is not so much these that bother Iraq as the potential Iranian illusions. If the Iranians should develop illusions they will suffer a far worse disaster than has befallen them. In any case, we are optimistic as far as peace is concerned. By contrast, the Iranians are not interested in peace. However, they will have to come around to peace the way they did with Resolution 598.

Discussing the Paris conference on banning the production and use of chemical weapons, he said: Iraq, along with Egypt and the other Arab countries, is committed to the 1952 Geneva convention banning the use of such arms. Despite Arab intentions, Ramadan added, Israel is the only regional power in possession of nuclear capability and has chemical capability. When Israel finds out that there is scientific knowhow in the region, it panics as this would spell the end of its blackmail. The deputy prime minister emphasized that Iraq is opposed to expansion and the illegal use of chemical weapons. However, where defending our country is concerned, we will not countenance any trusteeship.

The meeting between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Taha Yasin Ramadan, which was also attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, lasted for 2 hours.

Holds News Conference

NC0801220589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, has announced that Egypt's return to the Arab League is imminent. He added that Iraq has sensed this fact through the exchanges it has had with the fraternal Arabs with regard to its proposal that the Arabs should not wait for Egypt's return to be decided by an Arab summit. Egypt's participation in the summit should be proposed during the first session so that it would take part in the summit's work.

At a news conference held in Cairo this evening, Taha Yasin Ramadan noted that Iraq's stand on Egypt's return to the Arab League was clear in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's address to the Amman summit, when he officially called for the restoration of relations with Egypt and its return to the Arab League. He pointed out that the first part of Iraq's request has been achieved and what remains is the part which pertains to Egypt's return to the Arab League.

Touching on the bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Iraq, Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed optimism that the two countries are proceeding along a sound course for the sake of joint Arab action. He emphasized that this cooperation represents an exemplary unique phenomenon that could expand to involve other Arab couantries.

The Iraqi first deputy prime minister said that the assessment of the outcome of his visit to Egypt should not be measured by its results, but rather by the spirit and essence of the two sides' understanding and intentions, which constitute a good sign of their leading role in facing the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing.

Ramadan reiterated that the next stage will witness various exchanges and visits which would add new potentials to the two countries' historic role. He went on to say that the two countries had taken into consideration [words indistinct] and benefit from the previous Arab experiences and formulas of cooperation in a bid to avert any new setbacks after the arab citizen had lost confidence in Arab cooperation. This dictates that two countries take steps which might seem small but should be sure, provided that their bilateral cooperation should advance comprehensive Arab cooperation. Concerning the Palestinian issue, Taha Yasin Ramadan said this issue was discussed extensively during his meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He asserted it is necessary to hold an Arab summit conference that would bolster Palestinian decisions without being satisfied with the mere declarations of support which have been issued by Arab countries. He noted that consultations on this matter would continue with the Arab brothers.

Commenting on the peace negotiations with Iran, the Iraqi official emphasized that Iraq has nothing new to offer to these talks apart from its commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 598, which must be implemented article by article. He stressed that the implementation of the cease-fire must be linked to concurrent benefits and results for both parties on land, at sea, and in the air, particularly with regard to guaranteeing navigation in Shatt al-'Arab and the Gulf.

Commenting on the Iranian hesitancy in the peace talks, Ramadan said this has resulted from Iran's lack of a strong and unified leadership that believes in peace. He added it is no secret that some Iranian leaders are urging that an investigation be carried out into the causes of the defeat. They are not concerned with seeking peace and imagine that the mobilization of troops can affect Iraq's position, Ramadan declared.

The Iraqi official affirmed that although his country seeks peace, it is adopting a cautious attitude toward the Iranian rulers' behavior and intentions. He noted that only a developed Iraqi capability that is willing to engage in battle can deter Iran. At the same time, he stressed that Iraq is not worried about the slow pace of the peace process.

Taha Yasin Ramadan condemned the Syrian regime's stance with regard to Iraq during its war with Iran and accused it of treason. He said that by taking this stand, Syria had participated in shedding Iraqi blood. He added that Iraq's desire to turn over a new leaf with Syria does not constitute forgiveness of what he called treason but a closing of the battle lines.

On Iraq's relationship with the GCC and the reports about possible Iraqi membership in it, the Iraqi official said that this matter is a suspicious attempt to drive a wedge between Iraq and the brothers in the Gulf. He asserted that the aspects of agreements and similarity among the six GCC member states are greater than any such similarities between those countries and Iraq.

He said that his country supports any form of agreement among a number of Arab countries who seek to develop their capabilities so long as it is possible.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed Iraq's support for the GCC. He said: For the GCC countries to remain small economic entities not bound together constitutes a weak point in the Arab ranks. He added that Britain and the United States have spread rumors that Iraq will ask to join the GCC after the war, thus giving the leadership to Iraq. He said that this is not so and that, even if the brothers in the Gulf ask Iraq to join, it will refuse to do so until after an exhaustive study, because Iraq does not spare any of its eforts for any Arab cause.

Responding to a question about the reports from the Paris conference on preventing chemical war in the region, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed the falsehood of the U.S. accusation that Iraq had used chemical weapons and noted the U.S. insistence on this accusation despite Turkey's confirmation of the truthfulness of the Iraqi stand. He added: In the meantime we see no one in the world objecting despite the fact that Israel possesses the nuclear bomb.

Regarding the downing of the two Libyan planes, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister said that this represents a blatant aggression and an unacceptable U.S. intervention.

Responding to a question on the reconstruction of Iraq after the end of the war, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the reconstruction being done depends on Iraq's intrinsic resources in the first place. He added that Iraq has not stopped the reconstruction process throughout the years of war and will at the same time continue to develop its fighting capabilities so that it will not be weak and will be able to anticipate any situation.

Regarding Iraq's position on foreign investments, the Iraqi official said that his government does not approve of such investments but encourages and legislates Arab investments—whether government, private, or joint ones—within the framework of encouraging Arab economic integration.

Concluding his press conference, the Iraqi official underlined the importance of the role of Egyptian workers in Iraq. He said that they have cooperated with their Iraqi brothers before and after war and that Iraq supports the movement of workers among the Arab countries without linking this to the level of relations among these countries.

He added: As to the Iraqi political emigrants, their country welcomes them back but will not be lenient with those who have collaborated with the enemy in occupying the territories and that there is no place for them in Iraq.

Joint Committee With Iraq Meets in Cairo

JN0701211989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Jan (INA)—The meetings of the second session of the joint higher Iraqi-Egyptian committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation began here this evening. The Iraqi side was headed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; and the Egyptian side was headed by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, chairman of the Egyptian Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

The committee will discuss ways to promote cooperation in the trade, industrial, agricultural, transportation, communications, scientific, cultural, and financial areas. It will also follow up what was agreed on during the meetings of the first session in Baghdad last year. The two sides will review political issues, especially the Iraq-Iran negotiations, developments in the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and ways to support Arab solidarity.

At the beginning of the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan extended the congratulations of President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi leadership, and the Iranian people to Egypt—leadership, people, and government—on the occasion of restoring Tabah. He said restoring Tabah is a new Arab victory to be added to the Iraqi victories represented in Iraq's victory over the aggression and the escalation of the Palestinian uprising against the Zionist occupation forces.

Ramadan also praised the private and humanitarian relationship between Presdent Saddam Husayn and President Husni Mubarak and said this relationship is a source of pride for the two peoples and a factor that strengthens the responsible institutions' efforts to achieve the joint goals. He described the growing relations between Iraq and Egypt as a bridge in the Arab region that promotes the joint Arab action and builds the Arab solidarity.

Ramadan also said Iraq and Egypt represent the backbone of the Arab nation and that confidence in the future is growing and will inevitably contribute to the general Arab progress. He expressed his pride in the level of relations between Iraq and Iran and said that these relations have achieved great progress and contributed to promoting the mnutual understanding and exerting more efforts. He affirmed that the Iranian side, which was forced to accept Resolution No 598, will be forced to accept a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Ramadan also reiterated Iraq's continued support for the Palestinian people under the PLO. He added Iraq will continue to support the Palestinian uprising and the PLO's steps to regain the Palestinian people's rights, including the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil.

At the beginning of the meeting Dr 'Atif Sidqi also delivered a speech in which he welcomed Taha Yasin Ramadan and the Iraqi delegation. He said: I am pleased to repeat the congratulations of the Egyptian Government and people to Iraq—leadership and people—on the great victory it achieved over the Iranian aggression. He described the historic visit to Cairo by President Saddam Husayn on 28 November as a source of joy and pride for Egypt—president, government, and people.

Sidqi also said that the meetings of the second session of the joint higher committee session in Baghdad last July laid strong and broad bases for building expanded future relations in all areas.

'Atif Sidqi explained: We are eager to develop our two countries' relations in economic, trade, cultural, and scientific areas to the level of the close political relations between Iraq and Egypt on both official and popular levels. He praised the positions of Iraq and Egypt on supporting the just Palestinian struggle in order to enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights.

The Egyptian prime minister also pointed out that his country is concerned over the situation in Lebanon and said Egypt strongly condemns foreign interference in Lebanon's domestic affairs by any side and calls for ending hegemony over it and leaving its people to freely determine their country's affairs.

Joint Committee Meetings End

NC0801194989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Joint Committee ended its second session in Cairo this evening. The meeting had been held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister. At the conclusion of the session several cooperation agreements were signed in the spheres of agriculture, industry, energy, scientific research, social insurance, and utilization of manpower.

In a news conference at the cabinet offices this evening, Taha Yasin Ramadan announced that the results of the meetings of the Higher Joint Committee have been very good. He praised his meeting with President Mubarak and said that during this meeting they had discussed all aspects of the arab situation and cooperation between Egypt and Iraq. He commended the method used by the two countries and described it as a model for joint arab action.

Taha Yasin Ramadan declared that Iraq supports the restoration of Egypt's membership in the Arab League. He also reiterated the need to hold an urgent Arab summit conference to support the Palestinian resolution as regards the establishment of a Palestinian state. He added that the Iraqi-Egyptian stance calls for supporting Palestinian decisions to the greatest possible degree in the coming stage.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq supports rapprochement and cooperation among the Arab countries, including the GCC states, on both the bilateral and regional levels. He remarked that this rapprochement and cooperation serve Arab causes and are part of collective Arab cooperation.

Columnist on Soviet Interference in Press

JN0801113589 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Jan 89 p 5

["A Word of Love" column: "A Brief Pause on Communism" by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] There is a Russian saying that goes: You can befriend bears so long as you are holding a gun. We must remember this saying very well while entering into new relations with the Soviet Union, because it is worse than a bear; it is a cancer!

We must remember very well that in the sixties we celebrated the prophet's birthday for 1 day only, while we celebrated Lenin's birthday for 1 whole month in the name of Egyptian-Soviet friendship.

Countries that practice freedom of the press respect press freedom in Egypt. And countries that do not practice freedom of the press, like the Soviet Union, do not like freedom of the press in Egypt. If relations with the Soviets improve more than necessary, they will demand censorship on the Egyptian press!

In the sixties, there was a revolution in Czechoslovakia against Soviet occupation. Soviet tanks ran over the bodies of youths to storm the radio station. The Egyptian press did not publish a single line on that revolution or that ugly occupation at the instructions of the Soviet ambassador. We pray to God that those days will not return!

President al-Sadat gained his first popularity when he liberated Egypt from Soviet influence. That was his first glorious deed and the beginning of the victories.

After the Soviet ambassador to Egypt has attacked me and protested against me, it seems that I will be able to issue a third edition of my book on Egyptian debts to the Soviet Union, Soviet trickery against Egypt, and the scandals of Soviet influence in Egypt. The second edition has sold out, and I have received letters and phone calls asking for more copies. The people of Egypt are eager to know the secrets of Soviet scandals in Egypt.

If the Soviet ambassador to Egypt accuses me of being an agent accepting a price for what I write, it means he considers everyone who speaks the truth an agent who accepts bribes. The Soviet ambassador has no right whatsoever to interfere in Egyptian press affairs. We are not his nationals against whom he can level accusations at random as he does in his own country. He has no right to classify Egyptian journalists, saying this one is a friend and that one is an agent.

The Soviet ambassador to Egypt lost his senses when he could not find any of his friends coming to his defense. Egyptian communists have affirmed that to them the freedom of the press is more important than their Soviet friendship.

News agencies have reported that conditions in Cuba are deteriorating after 30 years of communist rule and that Castro's rule has made Cubans yearn for the days of the corrupt dictator Batista. This is the natural outcome of communist rule in any country.

You can bribe any government official in any communist country, beginning with the minister and ending with the driver. In fact, they themselves demand bribes sometimes. I have visited many communist countries and attended talks with several of these countries. I can write a 1,000-page book about the bribes demanded and received by government officials in these countries. These officials are always for sale. Therefore, the Russian ambassador thinks every pen in Egypt is also for sale!

Whenever we traveled to Moscow, they warned us against speaking freely in our rooms, over the telephone, and in cars. They said everything was under surveillance and being recorded. There are a thousand stories about how Russia is ruled by tapping telephones and shadowing the movement of guests! They suppress the freedom of the citizen and the guest as well.

When we went to the Kremlin in 1972, we entered in a queue and under strict guard. They banned us from looking right or left. After the opening of the session of talks, they expelled us completely from the Kremlin, in a queue also. These are just black memories.

No matter what we say about the ugliness of the communist system, we will not say more than President Gorbachev himself has said. He criticized his own system. He was more critical of Russian production more than we could have been.

Egyptian communists have assured me that they support me against the Russian ambssador's insults, which is what I expected. We Egyptian journalists might differ, but the whole thing is conducted honorably. We might also exchange recriminations, but we do not allow a foreigner to interfere between us.

There is an old joke. An Egyptian, an American, and a Russian saw a long queue in Cairo. The American said: This must be a movie theater. The Egyptian said: No, this must be a meat co-op. The Russian said: We invented queues, but what is meat?

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges 'Direct' Talks With U.S.

LD0701164889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Jan (JANA)—The leader of the revolution has stressed that Libya has been facing U.S. state terrorism for many years.

During a meeting this afternoon with a large number of Arab and international correspondents of news agencies, newspapers, television, and radio, he said that the world has had enough of state terrorism pursued by the United States, the superpower, against a small country. The United States has run out of support for this terrorism policy, which is unjust, hostile, and unjustified against a small people, even among its closest allies.

The brother leader said that Libya's record is clean from terrorism, while the U.S. record is full of terrorism, as is the record of the Zionists, who are backed by the United States.

The brother leader added: We challenge the United States and the whole world to produce any evidence showing that Libya has pursued terrorism.

The brother leader emphasized that the legitimate struggle for just causes will continue, and that the Great Jamahiriyah will not hesitate to support this struggle, no matter how strong U.S. confrontation and terrorism against it is, even if this confrontation continues for a million years. We will continue to back sacred causes, at the forefront of which is the cause of the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea, the unification of the Arab nation, the establishment of international peace, and making the Mediterranean a lake of peace free from foreign fleets.

The brother leader stressed that the United States should understand that the policy of force, threats and terrorism, and the policy of boats, aircraft carriers, and siege have failed miserably. The United States should open direct negotiations with Libya and sit around a negotiations table. The United States should put arms aside so that we can establish peace in the Mediterranean and throughout the world.

The brother leader of the revolution added: I believe that the Bush administration is capable of this, and that it has learned enough lessons from the policy of force and terrorism, which has proved to be ineffective.

The brother leader of the revolution indicated that neither the policy of terrorism, nor that of boats and aircraft carriers will work against Libya. Only good understanding and direct negotiations can work with Libya. The Bush administration should sit face to face with Libya around the negotiations table so that we can agree over the issue of disputes.

The leader asserted that the Great Jamahiriyah is against terrorism; it supports, however, the legitimate struggle for just causes and the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for the liberation of Palestine—a sacred struggle which we will not hesitate to support.

The brother leader added that Libya is not the only country which has been the victim of U.S. terrorism. Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba, Angola, and other small countries throughout the world are now suffering from U.S. state terrorism.

The leader stated that for the past 8 years the United States has been hated by every citizen in the world. Reagan's policy has cost the United States more than 1,000 American casualties, who had been killed throughout the world and not in Libya, nor were they killed by Libyans but by other people who have suffered from U.S. policies, and which hate the United States.

The leader asserted that the United States should rectifiy its policy and repair its ruined reputation; it should, furthermore, try, during the Bush era, to brighten up its image. It should have learned from the lessons, the slaps, the insults, and the losses brought about by its stupid and childish policy.

The brother leader stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah will take part in all international disarmament negotiations, dealing with anything from guns to nuclear weapons. The United States should go ahead and close down its nuclear, chemical, and neutron [neutroniyah] plants. Moreover, it should abandon the Star Wars program. Countries throughout the world should agree to eliminate weapons. Peace should prevail among the peoples; otherwise, there will only be confrontation.

The brother leader reiterated that the Great Jamahiriyah will not bow or give in; the United States will be defeated. It is not the first empire in the world to tyrannize and oppress others before being defeated.

The leader asserted we have a right to defend our land, our homes, our independence, and our free decision-making; we reject being treated differently.

The brother leader said Libya accepts the inspection of all factories in the world, and would like to be a member of any international committee which would inspect factories of the Zionists, the United States, Europe, and elsewhere in the world. It would inspect all factories, including those which arouse suspicion; Libya will be among those countries to be inspected.

The brother leader added that Libya categorically refuses to be treated differently. It will defend the honor of the Arab nation and peace in the Mediterranean.

The brother leader affirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah not only represents itself; it represents a great nation, which extends from the ocean to the Gulf.

Official Briefs Press on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD0701122689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1041 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Jan (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture has stated that 14 U.S. war planes attacked two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft which were on a routine reconnaissance mission over international waters.

During yesterday's meeting with journalists and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and radio and television stations, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture indicated that the video presented by the U.S. Government on the aggression, confirmed the latter's premeditated intention to commit aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

"It is irrefutable proof of U.S. lies and the invalidity of its allegations. It did not show the entire film, claiming that its quality was too poor to be shown, and it made a film by drawing a sketch, instead of showing the real film. This exposes the lie of the U.S. Government, which thinks that others are naive enough to believe these false stories."

He said that anyone who examines the statements made by U.S. officials will discover that there is a premeditated intention to commit aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. For what other reason are U.S. fleets in the Mediterranean and near our shores, thousands of kilometers away from their own land? "And why is there this massive concentration of military units and aircraft carriers... Have they come for a pleasure trip, or for simple routine exercises? Only the naive believe such claims."

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture also indicated that the statements made by the U.S. secretary of state, and his allegations about the pharmaceuticals plant in Al-Rabitah coincided with the U.S. fleet's movements in the Mediterranean.

He said: "We believe that we do not need to prove any further that the U.S. Government is preparing for premeditated aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. It is obvious to everyone that the U.S. Government is the largest producer of and depository for chemical weapons, and that it has officially approved a program for the development of this industry."

He added that the peoples of the world realize and understand the danger constituted by the stocks of U.S. chemical weapons stored on their territories in U.S. military bases, and that they are aware of the need to eliminate this danger.

He added that these people have risen against the U.S. bases, and against U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean and its maneuvers there, and also against the danger which this presence poses to security and peace in this vital region of the world, whose peoples wish to live in security, peace, and cooperation.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture pointed out that Libya has emphasized on more than one occasion that the Al-Raibtah factory is for pharmaceuticals, which are in great need here. Arab pharmicists and health ministers have visited this factory and confirmed publicly and frankly that it is a pharmaceuticals factory. The United States gives these testimonies no importance. This is a belittlement and lack of consideration of Arabs.

He said that Libyan pharmacists, doctors, families, Arabs and friends now occupy the Al-Rabitah factory in Gharyan and are determined to protect one of their gains and to sacrifice themselves to protect this landmark of civilization.

He said that it is clear the United States accords no significance to Arabs; it belittles them, and deals with them as if they neither existed nor have any opinion. this is best shown by the fact that the aircraft carrier "John F. Kennedy"—from which the U.S. jets took off to commit aggression against the two Libyan planes—headed, after committing the aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah, for the port of Haifa. This is fresh evidence of U.S. belittlement and abuse of Arabs.

He said that, notwithstanding the resolutions that will be issued by the Security Council, all states and peoples, all popular bodies and establishments condemn the U.S. aggression, and express support for the Great Jamahiriyah and its right to defend and develop itself and to meet the needs of its people.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture expressed the Libyan Arab people's gratitude and appreciation for the Pan Arab stances of support for the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the premeditated U.S. aggression against part of the Arab homeland, manifested by the Arab countries and the Arab people, from the ocean to the Gulf. He said: We give many thanks and appreciation to all the states who stood by us, to all those who are standing by us, to all those who reject the policy of the jungle, and to all those who demonstrated in anger to express their condemnation of the U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

I want to emphasize to you again, in all honesty, that despite the admission by Western heads of state that, internationally, there is nothing to prevent any state from building whatever factory it wants, this factory is a pharmaceuticals factory.

Further Details on Briefing

LD0701014589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture has affirmed that 14 U.S. war planes attacked 2 Libyan reconnaissance aircraft which were on a routine reconnaissance sortie over international waters.

During his meeting last night with Arab and foreign journalists—news agency, radio and press correspondents—he affirmed that the video presented by the U.S. Government on the aggression confirmed the premeditated intention of the U.S. Government to commit aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. It is yet another proof of the United States lies and the fallacy of its allegations, because the United States did not show the entire film; it claimed that the film was no good for showing. It manufactured a film with drawings [word indistinct] instead of the real film which exposed the lies of the U.S. Government, which believed that others were naive enough to believe these false stories.

He said that anyone following the U.S. statements would find out that there was a premeditated intention to commit aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah; otherwise, what were the U.S. fleets doing in the Mediterranean and near our coasts, thousands of kilometers away from their own territories? And why the huge massing of warships and aircraft carriers? Did they come for a promenade or for a simple routine exercise? Only the naive would believe such claims.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture pointed out that the statements and claims of the U.S. secretary of state about the pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in Al-Rabitah had coincided with the great movement of the units of the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean. We think that we do not need to underline more that the U.S. Government is preparing for premeditated aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. This is clear to all.

The U.S. Government is considered the biggest producer and storer of chemical arms in the world. It was the one that laid down a program for developing this industry. He said that the peoples of the world are aware and realize the danger of depots of the U.S. chemical weapons stored in their territories in U.S. military bases, and realized the need to eliminate this danger.

These peoples, he went on, rebelled against the U.S. bases and against the U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean, its manouvers in this sea, and the danger represented by this presence to security and peace in this vital region of the world whose peoples want to live in peace, security, and cooperation.

The brother secretary said we have affirmed more than once that the Al-Rabitah plant is a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant and that we are in desperate need for it. Arab pharmacists and health ministers have visited this plant and affirmed, openly and frankly, that it is a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant. The United States, however, did not attach any importance to this affirmation; this is contempt and disregard for Arabs.

He said that Arab and friendly pharmacists, doctors, and [word indistinct] are staging a sit-in at the Al-Rabitah plant, Gharyan City, and are determined to protect one of their gains and sacrifice themselves in order to protect this civilized edifice. He said: We thank and appreciate all the forces that have stood with us, all those who stand on our side, aall those who reject the law of the jungle, and all those who took to the streets in angry demostrations to denounce the U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

JANA Decries U.S. 'Deception' on Videotape

LD0601211389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1950 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Jan (JANA)—The U.S. Defense Department distributed a videotape and claimed that it was photographed by the U.S. aircraft that carried out the aggression against the two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft last Wednesday.

The U.S. Defense Department claims that the tape shows that one of the Libyan aircraft was armed and that the two aircraft switched their radars on toward the U.S. aircraft.

In an attempt to pass this tape and save itself from discredit, the U.S. Defense Department said that the taping was bad and the pictures are shaky.

The United States has used all its resources of deception and all its technology to come up with a videotape to support its lies about the aggression launched against the two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft as they were carrying out a normal reconnaissance operation.

From the cries of pride and victory at the beginning to the search for means of deception to wriggle out of the responsibilities of aggression, the U.S. stance changed.

The United States could not face up to the world's condemnation, so it resorted to producing an artistic play in which it said that the Libyan aircraft were armed, contrary to what the Jamahiriyah said, as if the essence of the problem was whether the aircraft were armed or not, and not the premeditated U.S. intentions of aggression. The whole world knows that a reconnaissance aircraft carries out self-defense operations and survey and warning operations.

What were the U.S. aircraft doing in the region, and how could they know that the Libyan aircraft took off from Bumbah base if not for premeditated intentions of aggression, and if they were not prepared from the moment they took off from the aircraft carrier "John Kennedy" for a specific mission, which was to strike at the two Libyan aircraft?

Is there any airplane in the world, whether military or civilian, that does not operate its radars? This U.S. twisted logic is really odd. If Libya manufactures medicine, the United States will say: How could you manufacture it; this is forbidden to you but permitted to others. If a Libyan reconnassance aircraft takes off, the United States will say how can your aircraft take off this way?

The odd thing about the U.S. story is the fact that it is ridiculous, unconvincing, and pathetic, and no one will believe it except those who fabricated and prepared it.

If the U.S. Administration allows itself to disregard U.S. public opinion and to deceive it and blur the facts before it, then let no one think that international public opinion is that stupid. The tide of condemnation of the U.S. aggression against the Jamahiriyah is enough to prove that international public opinion is alert and that the United States cannot deceive it or disregard it.

Circumstances of Shootdown by U.S. Explained

LD0601215489 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Here is an explanation of the U.S. aggression against the two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft over international waters:

The line on the map shows the airspace of the Great Jamahiriyah which should be watched by radar, and the radar watch should be supported by air reconnaissance using fighter and reconnaissance aircraft.

At 1050 on 4 January a group consisting of two MiG-23 aircraft was deployed to reconnoiter the region north of Tubruq.

The fighters took off at the specified time. While carrying out their duties, at 1100 seven groups of hostile U.S. aircraft suddenly appeared. Each group consisted of two F-14 aircraft, that is the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh group. These aircraft took off from the aircraft-carrier "John Kennedy", which was stationed near Crete.

Our aircraft continued their reconnaissance mission. Suddenly the seventh group disappeared, and then it suddenly reappeared and fired at our aircraft as they maintained their regular flight.

The statement by the U.S. defense secretary says that the missiles used against our aircraft were Sparrow missiles. These are radar-controlled missiles which are launched from a long distance of not less than 50 km. This clearly indicates that the action of the U.S. aircraft was premeditated, and that it was an ambush aimed at destroying reconnaissance aircraft in our airspace as they were carrying out their duties.

This operation took place north of Tubruq at a distance of 145 km north of Tubruq, inside Libyan airspace and over international waters.

It is very clear that the U.S. aircraft and their combat formation, and their violation of Libyan Arab airspace, and also it is clear that the reconnaissance aircraft were conducting a reconnaissance mission inside the airspace, and that they were far from the U.S. 6th Fleet, and that there was no excuse for attacking them because they were inside our airspace, and also because they were carrying out a regular mission authorized according to a specific program for protecting the Libyan Arab airspace. [sentence as heard] [speaker points to map of the region during his talk]

Sit-in Meeting Held at Al-Rabitah Plant

LD0801153689 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Rabitah, A'ina al-Nar [January] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Basic People's Congress (Al-Qala') in the municipality of Al-Jabal al-Gharbi yesterday marched on the pharmaceutical factory at Al-Rabitah in the city of Gharyan and joined doctors and pharmacists in their sit in at the factory.

The masses of the congress then held an emergency meeting at the factory to discuss the American hostile threats and provocations against the Libyan Arab people and its civilised achievements in various fields as a result of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

The masses reasserted their determination to confront the American challenge and arrogance with stronger and fiercer challenge and that the force of American whatever its might may be will not terrorise them.

The masses pointed out that that Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory or death [as received] and that the factory is a civilised achievement in the services of all mankind and was built in implementation of the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses to meet the needs of Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab homeland and to end the monopoly of foreign companies as well as to realise Arab security in the field of medicines and setting up advanced Arab pharmaceutical industry.

The masses of the congress reaffirmed their constant readiness to defend the great Al-Fatih revolution and its colossal civilised gains realised in various fields thanks to the great Al-Fatih revolution.

Foreign Reporters Visit Al-Rabitah Factory

NC0801082489 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] A large crowd of reporters and correspondents from Arab and international news agencies, radios, and press visited the Al-Rabitah factory for medicines in the city of Gharyan last night. The reporters met with the Arab citizens and Libyan families, doctors, and pharmacists who are staging a sit-in at the factory.

The factory's director provided the reporters with detailed information about the factory and its role in manufacturing medicines and pharmaceuticals in the service of mankind.

The reporters walked around the factory and saw at close hand that it is a factory for producing medicines and pharmaceutical drugs. They held meetings with the masses who are staging a sit-in at the factory. The masses reiterated their determination to defend this civilized accomplishment which the Libyan Arab people have achieved as a result of the Great 1 September Revolution.

Foreign Journalists Ordered To Leave 'Immediately'

NC0701213989 Paris AFP in English 2131 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Jan 7 (AFP)—The Libyan authorities late Saturday ordered some 250 foreign journalists who had arrived in the last 48 hours in connection with the U.S.-Libya confrontation to leave the country immediately.

They said the reporters should go to Malta, from where they were free to choose their next destination.

A government press and information official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the journalists must depart because "other delegations are expected and the hotel can no longer harbour journalists."

The official said that "your mission is over as soon as you have visited the Al-Rabitah complex".

On Saturday afternoon, the reporters were led to the chemical works, some 60 kilometres (40 miles) from Tripoli, but were only allowed to view it from the outside and were not permitted to enter the complex.

The United States has insisted that the Al-Rabitah works is intended for the production of chemical weapons. The Libyans maintain it is for pharmaceutical products.

Delegate Addresses UN Security Council

LD0601150089 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] New York, 6 Jan (JANA)—The delegate of the Great Al-Jamahiriyah at the [UN] Security Council has confirmed that the U.S. Administration is pursuing a blatantly hostile policy against the Great Jamahiriyah. In his speech to the Security Council, he said that the cause of the hostile U.S. policy is the independent policy of the Great Jamahiriyah which stems from its free will concerning national pan-Arab and international issues.

He added that the Great Jamhiriyah has eliminated U.S. military bases from its soil and that it exercises its full political rights to its natural resources. It stands alongside freedom and justice and the right of nations to self-determination, and it supports the liberation movements and the call for decolonization.

He explained that this policy causes U.S. resentment. It wants the Jamahiriyah to become an instrument which submits to its hegemony and domination. He noted that the provocations and threats against the Libyan Arab people have reached a climax during the era of the current U.S. Administration. He told the Security Council of the series of provocations and threats and the direct and indirect hostile acts of the current U.S. Administration against the Great Jamahiriyah.

He noted in his speech the campaigns of distortion and deception waged by the Reagan administration against the Great Jamahiriyah through which it seeks to isolate Libya and impose an economic blockade on it to hinder the developmental program of the Libyan Arab people.

The representative of the Great Jamahiriyah explained that when the Reagan administration failed to achieve its hostile objectives through political, economic, and scientific presures, as well as propaganda war, it resorted to the military option. He said that this present administration paved the way for this option through a series of violations of airspace and territorial waters and provocative military exercises off the Libyan Arab coast.

He reviewed the series of U.S. military attacks against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah. In this respect he reminded the UN Security Council of the abortive, barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression against the residential areas and civilian airports of Tripoli and Banghazi, noting that not even the embassies of foreign states such as France and Switzerland were spared from this barbarous act of aggression. He stressed that the international community condemned this act of aggression, but that the U.S. Administration persisted in its arrogance and folly, ignoring all international resolutions and conventions.

He noted that the present U.S. Administration is again resorting to threats, promises, terrorism, and brute force. He said it is claiming that the Libyan Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory in the city of Gharyan is capable of producing chemical weapons, adding that the Great Jamahiriyah renews its commitment to all international documents. He also stressed its continued and unconditional support for the UN General Assembly resolutions.

The Great Jamahiriyah's delegate emphasized the correctness of the Al-Jamahiriyah's expectation of an act of aggression by the U.S. Administration, which the latter had been preparing for weeks with the continuing propaganda campaign. It created incidents and maneuvered its naval fleets under the leadership of the aircraft carrier "Roosevelt," in order to reinforce the 6th Fleet, which is currently off Libyan shores. It announced that it was holding provocative maneuvers and planned the premeditated act of aggression of shooting down the two Libyan reconnaissance planes that were on a routine reconnaissance patrol over international waters.

In conclusion, the delegate called on the UN Security Council to condemn this U.S. military aggression. He also requested the Security Council to call on the U.S. Administration, as a permanent member of the Security Council, to accept its special responsibilities for international peace and security, to withdraw its military fleets, and to halt its provocative maneuvers aimed at the Libyan people.

Soviet UN Envoy Denounces U.S. 'Aggression'

LD0601144189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] New York, Jan 6 (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The permanent representative of the Soviet Union at the UN [United Nations] has denounced the U.S. aggression against the two Libyan reconnaissance planes.

Following the conclusion of the meeting of the Security Council, the Soviet representative has pointed out that the U.S. aggression will step up tension in the international atmosphere. Concluding his comments, he calls on this council to bring to the notice of the U.S. of the consequences of such hostile acts in the Mediterranean.

UN's Nonaligned Group Expresses Support

LD0601143989 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] New York, A'ina al-Nar [January] 6th, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The non-aligned group at the UN [United Nations] has expressed their support to the stance of Great Al-Jamahiriyah and its full solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in encountering the US threats of terrorism.

These comments were made at the meeting held by the above group in which the delegation of Great Al-Jamahiriyah at the UN submitted a report on the US premediated aggression against Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Leader's Note

LD0601180189 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina al-Nar [January] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received a telegramme from Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] the secretary-general of the Palestine National Liberation Movement - Fatah - in which he said:

Brotherly Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi - the leader of the Great Al-Fatih of September Revolution.

Revolution and struggle greetings, in my name, in that of my brothers in the Palestine National Liberation Movement- Fatah - and in the name of the movement's cadres and freedom-fighters, declare our firm standing with Jamahiriyah's revolution against all attempts to harm the nationalist stance rejecting imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots.

The cowardly American threats, under false titles and claims, against the people of Jamahiriyah after the failed treacherous U.S. invasion aimed at the historic leadership in your person is a failing attempt and we are certain that will affect your rigid support for the national struggle for liberation. [sentence as received]

We assure you, in the name of our movement's leadership and cadres, that we stand with you in the same trench of the Arab revolution on the road of defeatism for the David stable line lot, to defeat all the defeatist forces that acknowledged the aggression and had considered the patriotic and national struggle to liberate Palestine as an act of terrorism.

We are firmly confident and strongly believe that the U.S. conspiracies will fail as did its previous attempts - thanks to the alertness and vigil of our Libyan Arab people and thanks to the solidarity in struggle amongst the Arab revolution's groups from the ocean to the Gulf and it is a revolution until victory.

Foreign Minister's Meetings in Paris Reported

LD0801154089 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, A'ina al-Nar 8 [January] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau yesterday afternoon held talks in Paris with the foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Italy, and Burundi who are taking part in the Paris conference on chemical weapons.

The talks touched on the consolidation of relations between Great Jamahiriyah and the aforesaid countries regarding the current Paris conference.

'Responsible' Source Denies Chief of Staff Dismissed

NC0801090189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, a responsible Libyan source denied reports that Libyan Chief of Staff Colonel Abu Bakr Yunus was dismissed from his post after the U.S. downed two Libyan aircraft.

Contacts To Be Made With Iran, Iraq on Gulf

LD0801161489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] A source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison made the following statement:

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn talked in his speech on the occasion of setting up the Iraqi Army about the seriousness of the situation in the Gulf because of the military concentrations. The Great Jamahiriyah expresses its anxiety about the possibilities of the deterioration and explosion of the situation between Iraq and Iran after a cease-fire was reached, its implementation was started, and the conditions which help to achieve peace and secure the stability of the states of the region were created.

The Great Jamahiriyah observes the situation with great concern and has decided to make contact with the concerned parties in order to prevent an explosive situation reoccurring in the region.

Health Agreement Signed With Syria

LD0601182489 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli A'ina al-Nar [January] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday evening in Tripoli a protocol agreement on health cooperation between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Syria was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti the health minister of sisterly Syria. The protocol included:

—The setting of a joint work group to propose scientific practical programmes and plans in all fields of health cooperation, teaching of health and medical sciences in Arabic, human and dental medicine pharmacology.

—Exchange of medicine patent registration in both countries.

—Joint procurements of medicines and coordination of price lists.

—Integration in the care and treatment by way of twining Tripoli's eye hospital with its counterpart in Damascus and both kidney treatment centres in Al-Zahraa [name as received] and Damascus.

—The working out of an organisational programme between Syria's Health Ministry and Great Jamahiriyah's health's General People's Committee [title as received] to benefit for both countries' expertise on medicine manufacture and joint scientific research.

Morocco

Diplomatic Relations With Syria Restored

LD0901135389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The Kingdom of Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic have decided to restore diplomatic relations.

The Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and that of the Syrian Arab Republic have issued a joint communique, the text of which is as follows:

In accordance with the fraternal initiative undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to remove obstacles to joint Arab efforts to confront the dangers facing the Arab motherland, the Governments of Morocco and Syria have decided to restore diplomatic relations between the two fraternal countries.

'Full' Relations With Iran To Be Resumed 'Soon'

JN0701154289 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 7 (GNA)—Morocco and Iran have decided to upgrade their diplomatic representation as a prelude to resume full diplomatic relations soon, UAE 'AL-ITTIHAD' newspaper reported today.

The Abu Dhabi-based daily, quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat said that the upgrading was the "fruit" of behind the scene contacts between Rabat and Tehran during which the two sides succeeded in ironing-out their differences.

The sources added this step reflects the desire of the two countries to improve their relations, severed following the ousting of the former shah of Iran in 1979.

Ministry Issues Communique on Polisario Talks

LD0601134089 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Marrakesh, Jan 6. (MAP)—The Moroccan Ministry of Information released the following communique:

"His Majesty King Hassan II, may God glorify him, received today January 5, 1989, for a second time, Mr. Bachir Mustapha Sayyed, Mr. Mahfoud Ali Beiba and Mr Ibrahim Ghali.

"The talks were continued in the framework of the communique released yesterday January 4 after the first audience. They focused on the situation prevailing in our southern Saharan provinces in the perspective of the referendum decided upon."

Polisario Official Cited on Talks With King

LD0601135789 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, Jan 6 (MAP)—The talks the Saharan delegaton had Wednesday [4 January] and Thursday in Marrakesh, Morocco, with King Hassan II of Morocco "are a dialogue which will continue and foretell that 1989 will be a decisive year for a peaceful settlement of the Western Sahara conflict," member of the "Polisario" Executive Committee and official of External Relations Bachir Mustapha Sayyed has told the ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY "APS".

Sayyed, head of the delegation, had been received by Moroccan sovereign twice, the APS said adding that "the Executive Committee of the 'Polisario' Front will convene soon to assess the results of the meetings".

"The Marrakesh [passage indistinct]

Sudan

Agreement To Form National Government Reached

NC0701113489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1049 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Jan (MENA)—Agreement has been reached between the National Islamic Front, the Al-Ummah Party, the southern parties, and the Sudanese national party [not further specified] to form a national government [hukuma qawmiyah] in Sudan.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad, member of the executive leadership and secretary of political relations at the National Islamic Front, stated today that an announcement regarding the establishment of this government is expected within the next few days. He added that issues pertaining to the form of government have been decided by the parties' constitutional structures and institutions.

Detention Renewed for 12 Involved in Coup Attempt

NC0801215389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jan (MENA)—The Sudanese Supreme Emergency Committee met today under Dr Hasan al-Turabi, minister of justice and public prosecutor, and renewed detention orders against the 12 individuals who were placed under protective custody in the wake of the recent coup attempt.

Dr Hasan al-Turabi stated that last night's meeting had discussed the petitions of some detained currency traders. The detention orders for currency trader suspects whose remand orders had expired were renewed until such time as all policies pertaining to individual detention are comprehensively reviewed. Al-Turabi pointed out that so far not more than 70 are being detained.

Bahrain

Downing of Libyan Planes Termed 'Serious Threat'

JN0501183889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, 5 Jan (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has expressed deep concern over yesterday's shooting down of two Libyan aircraft over international waters in the Mediterranean by American forces.

A Bahraini Foreign Ministry official said in a statement this evening the incident poses a serious threat to regional peace and security and sets back international efforts to resolve conflicts by peaceful means. The source called on the United States to exercise restraint and refrain from using force or the threat of force against Libya.

He also called on the international community to work to contain the situation and stave off further deterioration.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Denounces U.S. 'Dangerous Act'

LD0701095489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0757 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 8 (KUNA)—Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has said that Kuwait is maintaining maximum alert and vigilance until an Iraqi-Iranian settlement is reached and a peace treaty is signed including the region's states in accordance with the 8th article of the Security Council Resolution 598.

In an interview with daily AL-WATAN, published here Saturday, Shaykh Nawwaf added that Kuwait considered the Gulf Cooperation Council states are partners to peace by removing tensions and confrontations in the region. The states of the region are seeking that U.N. efforts should include all Arab Gulf littoral states which have been affected by the conflict, he said.

The defense minister criticized the recent U.S. attitude of resolving its dispute with Libya. He described as "an unjustified dangerous act" the U.S. downing of two Libyan reconnaissance planes last Wednesday.

A superpower like the U.S. should seek to establish peace in the region instead of starting confrontation that might threaten security and peace in the world, he added.

He hailed performance of the Kuwaiti Army in handling weapons purchased from abroad.

Shaykh Nawwaf praised military cooperation among the GCC states and expressed satisfaction over cooperation with Egypt in fields of military supplies.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Accusations Over Plant

LD0801150489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0821 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 8 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Sunday criticized the U.S. chemical-weapons accusations against Libya and said Washington must first exercise what it preaches.

If the U.S. insists on attacking a Libyan pharmaceutical plant for its alleged production of chemical weapons, then the world community must demand the U.S. itself to stop producing and stockpiling the same type of weapons, the paper said in a front-page editorial.

"The American threats against libya have unveiled some awful contradictions in American concepts, because chemical (weapons) plants do exist in Russia, France, China, Korea, Israel and West Germany... and the Libyan plant, if the allegation were true, is no exception," it added.

Referring to the international conference on chemical weapons, now in session in Paris, the paper said the Paris gathering must be turned into a tribunal to try those claiming to themselves the right of custodian over small nations.

The paper also indicated that it was totally unacceptable that the U.S. and other big powers should feel free to send their fleets to Arab territorial waters in moves that would jeopardize regional and international peace and security.

PLO Office Officially Recognized as Embassy

LD0801213189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1238 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Jan 8 (KUNA)—His highness the amir has instructed the allocation of peace of land in the area of embassies for the premises of the Embassy of Palestine and that Kuwait Government bears cost of construction of the building as a gift from the people of Kuwait to their brotherly Palestinian people on the occasion of the establishment of their independent state.

State Minister for Housing Affairs and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rudan, speaking after the weekly meeting of the cabinet today, also said Kuwait has decided to consider the Palestinian Liberation Organization's (PLO) office here as the Embassy of the Palestinian state to Kuwait as of today Jan 8.

He said the move comes in compliance with Kuwait's stable and permanent stance of supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people till achieving their goals in establishing their independent state and acquiring self determination. [passage omitted]

Qatar

PLO Office in Doha Will Become Embassy

JN0701094289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 7 Jan (WAKH)—It was officially announced in Doha today that the State of Qatar has decided to convert the PLO office in the Qatari capital into an embassy for the State of Palestine and to consider the PLO representative the ambassador of Palestine to the State of Qatar.

In a statement to QNA, an official source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry said that Qatar's decision came to support the legitimate, national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state over their national soil. The source added that this decision also came to reinforce Qatar's recognition of the Palestinian state declared by the PNC in Algiers last November.

PLO 'Ambassador' on Decision

JN0701151189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 7 Jan (WAKH)—Yasin al-Sharif, Palestinian ambassador in Doha, has praised the decision made by Qatar to convert the PLO office into a Palestinian embassy.

In a statement to QNA, he said: We consider this historical decision an affirmation by Qatar, under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, of its firm principled stands toward the Palestinian people's struggle and a support for their inalienable national rights, foremost of which are the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state.

Yasin al-Sharif added: This decision is a source of strength for the Palestinian move, which accompanied the decision to proclaim the independence document in the PNC; a support for the struggle fought by our people; an honor of the sacrifices and heroic feats of this people throughout their struggle—particularly the sacrifices of our kinfolk inside the occupied territory; and a blessing of their heroic uprising.

Yasin also said: While we are living the moments of repeated victories and achievements, we will continue to recall fraternal Qatar's brotherly stands, which sincerely represent the consciousness of the Arab nation's sons and which rally around our people's cause.

Saudi Arabia

Reports of Joint Proposal With Libya Denied

LD0801173789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1636 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh 8 Jan (SPA)—Commenting on reports cited by some Arab and foreign papers quoting THE NEW YORK TIMES magazine of Saturday 7 January, saying the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has offered a Saudi-Libyan proposal to the United States with regard to solving the current conflict between the United States and Libya vis-a-vis the Libyan pharmaceutical factory, an authoritative source told SPA:

The report published by THE NEW YORK TIMES magazine in this connection contradicts reality, in that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not offered any such proposal. What happened is that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia sent a verbal message to the U.S. Government, which states the opinion of the Kingdom on how to avoid the escalation of tension between the United States and Arab countries because of U.S. threats against Libya, which were stated by some U.S. officials. This may reflect negatively on intensive efforts to establish peace in the region, and all Arab countries and peace-loving states join us in this path.

United Arab Emirates

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat, President Meet 5 Jan

JN0501171089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] This evening, His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed the latest Palestinian developments and recent political and international moves by the PLO. 'Arafat briefed the head of state on the outcome of his diplomatic efforts to win support for the independent Palestinian state. They also discussed the Palestinian-American dialogue and efforts to convene an international Mideast peace conference.

His highness the head of state stressed the need for the Palestinian people to press ahead with their revolution and valiant uprising and for the uprising to receive every possible support until an independent Palestinian state is formed. His highness reiterated the UAE's support for Palestinian moves on self-determination and statehood and renewed his support for the struggle of the Palestinian leadership and people to regain their rights and territory.

Present at the meeting were Sa'id Ghayth, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Khalid Malak, Palestine's charge d'affaires to the UAE.

Lays Embassy Cornerstone

JN0501182289 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 5 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan along with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today laid down the foundation stone of the Palestine Embassy at Abu Dhabi diplomatic area, the UAE NEWS AGENCY (WAM) reported.

The UAE yesterday decided to upgrade the Palestine office here to an embassy of the State of Palestine.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Cables Condolences on Hirohito's Death

JN0701202289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, secretary general of the General People's Congress, has sent a cable of condolences to Emperor Akihito on the death of Emperor Hirohito of Japan.

'Text' of Tariq 'Aziz Message to Perez de Cuellar

JN0601132089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has vehemently criticized Iran's stand expressed in a message sent to the UN secretary general by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati last Tuesday.

The Iraqi minister said the Iranian message contains falsehoods and baseless claims as well as strange ideas about the spirit and letter of Resolution 598 and about the method of negotiations because Minister Velayati specified what he views as not being part of negotiations, particularly the withdrawal issue. In a message sent to the UN secretary general today [as received], Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's readiness to respond to the UN secretary general's call for resuming the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran on a date to be set by the UN secretary general. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of Tariq 'Aziz' message:

Your Excellency, I would like to refer to the message sent to Your Excellency by the Iranian foreign minister on 15 December 1988. This message contains a group of falsehoods and baseless claims which require a reply and an explanation in order to reveal the false stand of Iran, which is fully responsible for the delay in implementing Resolution 598. It is crystal clear, as we have demonstrated on all occasions prior to and after the issuance of Resolution 598, that the Iranian stand on Security Council resolutions is a selective stand which chooses whatever the Iranian side views as beneficial and evades the commitments by which it should abide. This is contrary to the consistent Iraqi stand, which considers Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 598 and the provisions of international law, as an indivisible whole to which there should be a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced commitment.

The Iranian minister's message completely reflects this course in tackling the issues which have thus far been negotiated. The Iranian minister completely ignores the fact that Iran, since direct negotiations began, has refused to agree on the necessary arrangements and rulings to entrench the cease-fire on land, at sea, and in the air. This is the first step urged by the Security Council resolution toward the attainment of a negotiated settlement. Since the cease-fire went into effect, Iran has granted itself the right to stop and search ships in the Arabian Gulf's international waters.

In other words, Iran granted itself the right to impose a siege on Iraqi ports at any time it wishes to exercise such an alleged right. It is clear that such an allegation—neither approved by international law nor by the precedents of armed disputes following the establishment of the United Nations—will pose grave dangers to the cease-fire and will violate the provisions that organize the cease-fire. Presumably, both parties to the conflict should benefit equally from these provisions, and neither party should enjoy privileges at the expense of the other party's interests or security.

By adopting such a stand and insisting on nonacceptance of the United Nation's clearing of Shatt al-'Arab, Iran wants to benefit fully from ending the military operations at sea and from the freedom of shipping. Iran also seeks to prevent Iraq from benefitting from these things in a similar way. If Iran were ready to entrench the cease-fire on land, at sea, and in the air through a clear agreement that contains a joint concept about cease-fire arrangements under the UN secretary general's patronage, then it would have been possible to proceed with the implementation of other provisions of Resolution 598 in accordance with the agreement reached under your patronage on 8 August 1988. We do not believe anyone disagrees with us on emphasizing the fact that the priority in implementation is given to the entrenchment of the cease-fire with its full concept and not only to the ceasing of shelling as has so far been the case.

Everyone, including us, was expecting an agreement on the cease-fire arrangements to be reached without serious problems. However, the actual state of affairs has proved contrary due to Iranian intransigence and nonacceptance of these arrangements. One must wonder: Why has Iran objected to the constructive Iraqi proposal to the effect that the United Nations can clear Shatt Al-'Arab and make it fit for shipping without harming the legal status of Shatt Al-'Arab? The clear conclusion from this stand is that Iran does not consider the mutual benefits of the cease-fire and seeks to exploit any topic raised in the negotiations for the purpose of pressures and blackmail. It is clear that such behavior does not express genuine desire to attain comprehensive, lasting peace between the two countries, an objective sought by the Security Council and the international community through Resolution 598.

As is known, the Iranian minister's message contains concepts that are alien to the spirit and letter of Resolution 598 and to the method of negotiations and the resolution of disputes between states because the Iranian minister specifies what he views as not being part of negotiations, particularly the withdrawal issue. We have affirmed on every occasion that one of the requirements for establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace between the two sides is that neither use land as a hostage or means of blackmail. Therefore, the withdrawal of one of the two sides from any part of the territory of the other is inevitable if it is proved that this party has encroached on this territory as a result of military operations.

This can be achieved through a sincere desire for peace and within the framework of negotiations and mutual understandings between the two sides on the provisions of Resolution No 598 in accordance with the agreement reached between them under your auspices on 8 August

1988 and by showing good intentions with respect to implementing Resolution No 598 in accordance with a fixed formula and not selectively as the Iranian side wants. From this premise, it is strange that the Iranian foreign minister mentions in his letter that withdrawal must precede any negotiations and be separated from them.

In the meantime, we find that Iran insists on considering the third clause of the resolution—in which the UN Security Council urges the release and repatriation of POW's without procrastination following the actual cessation of hostilities in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention of 13 August 1949—an indivisible part of the negotiations. This is despite the fact that the text of this clause is clear and that the Geneva Convention is also clear and binding with respect to the comprehensive release of POW's immediately following the actual cessation of hostile operations without linking it to other matters. Although hostile operations were actually suspended on 20 August 1988, tens of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian POW's continue to suffer the bitterness of detention, not to mention the sufferings of their families as a result of the Iranian regime's stubbornness and insistence on linking this sensitive hmanitarian issue to bargaining over the negotiations.

The Iranian foreign minister finally accuses Iraq of several cease-fire violations that were actually committed by Iran itself, and Iraq had previously informed the observer group of these violations, which were also communicated to you in several letters to which you can refer.

Iraq's stand toward Resolution No 598 and its readiness to implement it have been known to you and to the Security Council members since the resolution was issued in July 1987. We stressed to you Iraq's readiness to implement the resolution according to the sequence of its paragraphs or to reach agreement on implementing it as one package without partitioning it. During the negotiations, it has become clear to you that Iran refuses to adopt a fixed policy toward implementation of the resolution. It wants to deal with it selectively to obtain quickly what it considers useful while procrastinating in implementing the other articles of the resolution and using them for blackmail or pressure on Iraq and the UN Secretariat to achieve aims contradictory to those of Resolution No 598 and of the international community.

On this occasion, I would like to recall the contents of the letter I sent to you on 11 December 1988, in which I gave examples of Iranian threats to resume aggression and employ military means to resolve outstanding issues.

The Iranian foreign minister's recent letter and the Iranian Navy commander's statement on 1 January—in which he reiterated Iranian claims and threats to search ships—as well as the Iranian foreign minister's second letter dated 29 December—with which I have recently been acquainted and which underlines the same Iranian stands—all emphasize that the Iranian regime is not yet ready to act on the basis that Resolution No 598 is a peace plan that should be implemented through understanding under your aegis and on the basis of the letter and spirit of the resolution, the rules of international law, and the methods of resolving disputes among states in the modern age. It is behaving as if it were waging the war by a new method in place of the previous means, which it was forced to abandon.

On this occasion, I would like to stress what I expressed to you during our latest meeting in Geneva in December last year about our readiness to receive you or your representative, Mr Eliasson, in Baghdad at any time you deem fit and our readiness to accept the invitation to resume direct talks on the date you fix.

I shall be grateful to you if you would kindly acquaint the Security Council members with the text of this letter. I also hope it will be circulated as a Security Council document.

With my great appreciation.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 5 January 1989

Tariq 'Aziz Addresses Chemical Weapons Conference

JN0801183989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 8 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Iraq believes that any call for a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons should be coupled with a similar call for a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons. In a speech he delivered in Paris today before participants in the international conference on banning chemical weapons, he said that bolstering the security of nonnuclear countries is important in some parts of the world, especially in the Middle East.

He added that there is no doubt that nuclear weapons have been introduced into the region after Israel possessed the nuclear weapon and that Israel also possesses chemical weapons and missiles that can reach many Arab cities, including Iraqi cities.

Tariq 'Aziz also said that by this, Israel constitutes a serious threat to pan-Arab security, the safety of the region's countries, and the rules of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in the region. He explained that Israel used its military capabilities in aggression and occupation and launched a direct attack against Iraq in June, 1981, when its planes raided the Iraqi nuclear reactor, which was used for peaceful purposes and was subjected to international inspection.

The following is the text the speech delivered by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the conference:

Mr Chairman, I am very pleased to extend to you on behalf of the Iraqi delegation and in my own name our congratulations on your election unanimously as chairman of this important conference, which was convened in response to President Francois Mitterrand's initiative. Your chairmanship of the conference will certainly guarantee its success in view of your wisdom, awareness, and prudence. Our pleasure is also doubled by the fact that the conference is being held in Paris, the capital of France, which maintains close relations of friendship with my country under all circumstances.

The Iraqi people share the world nations' desires for the sovereignty of security and peace in the world because they are a basic necessity for freedom and the continuation of progress and construction in all material and spiritual walks of life.

Iraq is part of the Arab nation, which believes in peace and equal relations among nations, respects international law, and seeks the sovereignty of the values of good, justice, and peace all over the world. Unless such relations prevail among countries, peace cannot prevail permanently. Consequently, disarmament measures cannot achieve the required purpose. Unstable and temporary peace compels countries to be ready all the time to protect their security and sovereignty within the framework of their right to self-defense.

Adopting these principles in international relations constitutes one of the rules in which we believe and on which we base our policy. We want real peace and we do not want any wars in our region or in any other part of the world. We also look forward to a world with a social security system in which there is no need for using any sort of weapons.

From this premise, when we possess a weapon, we do not want to use it against anybody. The aim of possessing this weapon is to protect ourselves from our enemies. In affirmation of these principles in our policy, I announced on behalf of the Iraqi Government on 17 September 1988 that Iraq respects and adheres to all the rules of international law and the international agreements as agreed upon by the international community, including the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which bans the use of chemical weapons and poisonous gases. I also announced Iraq's adherence to other agreements within the framework of the international humanitarian law that urges abidance by these agreements and respect for all the charters and pledges as a whole unit. The Iraqi president stressed this position in his speech on 6 January.

This conference gives us an opportunity to affirm this Iraqi stand on the 1925 Geneva protocol and also on the appeal to all states, which have not done this yet, to join this protocol so it will indeed become an international agreement whose provisions will include all states and not some of them.

However, it must be pointed out on this occasion that when the international community concluded the Geneva protocol in 1925 the chemical weapons were the only total destruction weapons at that time. But since World War II new weapons of total destruction have been produced and created—weapons whose danger against mankind exceeds that of chemical weapons as well as the latter's ugly nature. This situation and the new dangers posed to mankind's survival call on us to deal with these new weapons of total destruction on equal footing regarding both disarmament and the total ban on their use.

Mr Chairman: Iraq has always supported the international efforts in the field of disarmament. Iraq was among the first states which joined the international agreements and treaties in this field such as the treaty on banning the nuclear arms proliferation and the 1963 treaty on banning nuclear experiments in the air, in space, and on the sea's surface. Iraq also signed the 1972 agreement on banning the promotion, production, and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxic weapons and their destruction.

Moreover, Iraq, along with the Nonaligned Movement, contributed to the convening of the first extraordinary UN General Assembly meeting devoted to disarmament in 1978. This session resulted in adopting a final document by consensus of opinions.

This document stressed the top priority of the effective arrangements regarding nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war as part of the states' efforts on disarmament. This meeting gives us the opportunity to affirm both these principles and the nonpermissibility of amending them under no circumstances whatsoever and regardless of the objectives and purposes behind this. Also, we would like to recall here that the final document clearly emphasized that disarmament arrangements should be adopted in a fair, balanced manner which is bound to secure each state's right to security and that no state or group of states should at any phase obtain privileges unlike other states. Moreover, the goal should be uncompromising security based on the minimal possible level of weapons and military forces.

The final document also stressed the need to precisely take into account the presence of an acceptable balance regarding responsibility and mutual commitments between the states which possess nuclear weapons and other states. Within this context, the nuclear states are urged to adopt effective steps to ensure that nuclear weapons or the threat to use them will not be employed against the states which do not possesss nuclear weapons.

It is noteworthy here that in his speech to the UN General Assembly in which he called for holding this conference, President Mitterrand himself asserted that it will be impossible to impose chemical weapons disarmament on some states if the nuclear states insist on monopolizing this field and do not persist in their disarmament endeavors.

Strengthening the security of states that do not possess nuclear weapons assumes special importance in certain parts of the world, especially in the Middle East. There is no doubt that nuclear weapons have been introduced to the Middle East by Israel, which possesses nuclear weapons in addition to chemical weapons and missiles that can reach many Arab cities, including Iraqi cities. Israel thus poses a serious threat to Arab national security and the security of all of the countries of the region as well as to the notion of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons there. Israel has used its military capability for aggression and occupation. It even committed a direct aggression against Iraq in 1981 when its Air Force attacked Iraq's nuclear reactor which had been used for peaceful purposes and was subject to international inspection. Efficacious and speedy international measures are required to remove nuclear weapons from this region in order to promote peace and security and a balance of forces there.

Iraq thinks that any call for a total ban on chemical weapons must be coupled with a call for a complete ban on nuclear weapons.

We take the opportunity to once again say that just like other free countries, Iraq will not be bound by agreements in whose formulation it is not involved. We therefore renew the call for the Geneva disarmament conference to give unimpeded access to a contribution by nations so willing to join in its proceedings. This call mirrors a conviction on our part that facilitating a participation of nonmember nations in the work of the disarmament conference will serve to smooth its proceedings and pave the way for involving all countries in potential agreements.

Mr President: In conclusion, we look on this high level conference as a fresh opportunity for nations to express their political will on the need for a complete abidance by the aims of the UN charter and scrupulous observance of its principles and those related to the maintenance of global peace and security.

The international community is further called upon to make extra efforts to build on international detente and set up relations founded on peaceful coexistance and trust among nations. It is also called upon to resolve conflicts through negotiations and understanding in the interest of objective circumstances that would preclude the need for a recourse to the use of force.

Delegate Denies Iranian Minister's Remarks

JN0701222089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, 7 Jan (INA)—Wisam al-Zahawi, representative of the Iraqi delegation in the international conference on chemical weapons being held here and Foreign Ministry under secretary, has refuted Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's claims and slanders contained in his address to the conference. Al-Zahawi said the Iranian foreign minister bypassed the truth when he claimed that during 8 years of war Iran did not use chemical weapons. Velayati also contradicted the international reports while attempting to affirm his claims against Iraq, Al-Zahawi added.

Al-Zahawi explained that the expert teams sent by the UN secretary general to investigate the use of chemical weapons during the Iraq-Iran conflict confirmed the fact that Iraqi personnel were subjected to chemical attacks and that some of the victims of these weapons were sent to a number of European states, including France, for treatment. He added that the Iranian regime has committed uncountable crimes against mankind, insisted on launching the aggression, and did not relinquish war until it was defeated on the battlefield.

Arens Discusses Consular Ties With Shevardnadze

Agreement on Delegations

TA0801120089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Here is some good news about Israel's relations with the Soviet Union: The two countries have apparently agreed to transfer the consular delegations to the permanent buildings that formerly housed the embassies. This agreement was reached in a lengthy meeting in Paris between Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. MA'ARIV's correspondent in Paris Tamar Golan reports:

The meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, was held in an office at the UNESCO building in Paris. The meeting ended a few minutes ago and was longer than scheduled. The two men were smiling as they emerged from the meeting, and they agreed to talk with the small group of journalists gathered outside.

Mr Shevardnadze said the following: We agreed that the consular delegations of both countries should get good working conditions. When asked the meaning of good working conditions, Shevardnadze said: It means normal conditions, including housing, on which we agreed here. Housing means Israel's request to move the delegation to the building that formerly housed the Israeli Embassy in Moscow.

Mr Shevardnadze also thanked Israel and its people for its assistance with the hijacked plane and the aid extended in the wake of the earthquake in Armenia. He added that the talk had been very constructive and effective. Progress has been made against the background of the changes going on in the world, and chances are good. The main thing is to find a solution in the Middle East, and we now believe this is possible. Of course, Shevardnadze said a solution would be possible only if an agreement were reached between Israel, the Arab countries, and the Palestinians on the question of peace with international help. Nevertheless, the Soviet minister did not mention the words international conference.

Consular Activity To Expand

TA0801152289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Israel and the Soviet Union have decided to expand the scope of activity of their consular delegations, which will henceforth be allowed to deal with political issues as well. This was stated by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens at the end of a meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, in Paris. Arens confirmed that an understanding had been reached regarding the transfer of the Israeli delegation to the building that formerly housed the Israeli Embassy in Moscow. Moshe Arens conveyed to the Soviet minister Israel's appreciation over the fact that the Soviet Union has allowed many Jews to emigrate.

Minister Arens held yet another meeting in Paris today, with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. At the end of the meeting, the Egyptian minister said that a visit by President Mubarak to Israel should not be expected in the near future. The two sides agreed that the delegations of both countries should meet following Wednesday's Inner Cabinet session on Tabah. Progress was also made on the issue of compensation to the victims of the Ra's al-Burqa' incident. This is reported by our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts.

Arens Comments on Meeting

TA0801161489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Paris by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Shilon] What happened in your meeting today with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze?

[Arens] In my opinion, the meeting was a good, even a very good one; a sincere and very friendly meeting. He started out by reiterating his gratitude for Israel's assistance to the victims of the earthquake in Armenia, and the way we dealt with the plane that was hijacked in the Soviet Union and flown to Israel, calling our actions very effective. We went on to discuss bilateral relations and the peace process. He informed me that they had decided to significantly improve the working conditions of our consular delegation in Moscow.

[Savir] Did you also talk about upgrading the delegations?

[Arens] Yes. They also decided to allow our delegation to expand and upgrade the scope of its activity, and treat it as a venue for political activity. I see this as very important progress.

[Shilon] Did he ask you or did you initiate a discussion about the peace process in terms of a new Israeli initiative?

[Arens] I explained to him the situation in Israel following the elections and the establishment of the government. The government is currently assessing the situation and formulating its position, and within a few weeks the prime minister will present Israel's policy concerning the peace process. They realize that this will take some time. I assume we will meet more frequently and in a more orderly manner than in the past.

[Savir] Was the question of talking, or rather not talking, to the PLO raised in your meeting?

[Arens] When Mr Shevardnadze expounded the Soviet position concerning the peace process, he also explained their position regarding the PLO, which is totally different from ours.

[Shilon] Do you insist on the well-known Israeli position that if people identified with the PLO are elected in the elections to be held in Judaea and Samaria, when they are held, Israel would not consider them legitimate representatives?

[Arens] I did not discuss the issue of elections or any other specific detail that may or may not be part of the position that will ultimately be adopted by the Israeli Government with any of my interlocutors.

[Shilon] You held meetings today with Shevardnadze, outgoing Secretary of State Shultz, and Egypt's Al-Majid. All three, in fact, object to the Israeli stand concerning the PLO. How do you plan to overcome this hurdle?

[Arens] Look, this is not the first time we have found our position not to be exactly the same as those of the Arab world, the Eastern bloc, or even the European Community. We also know the reason for these differences of opinion: One of them is that what is at stake is Israel and its security, and nobody worries about our security as we do. I think we can and must present our positions, concerns, and perceptions. I believe in them, and I am sure that they are compatible with the reality in the Middle East.

[Shilon] Is there no room for change?

[Arens] I told you: The new Israeli Government will formulate its position within the next few weeks. I do not know whether it will be identical to its position in the past. We will certainly take into consideration present realities. [passage omitted]

[Savir] Your meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand had not been scheduled. Could it be that it is designed to compensate for France's decision to upgrade the level of the PLO delegation?

[Arens] I do not think it is a matter of compensation. I believe that as a result of my meeting with the French minister of foreign affairs, the president wants to meet me, hear what I have to say, and tell me his views. [passage omitted]

Arens, Shultz Discuss Ties, 'Peace Initiative'

TA0801091889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] U.S.-Israeli relations over the last few years were reviewed this morning by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens over breakfast in Paris.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that after the meeting, Minister Arens said that the government in Jerusalem will devote the coming few weeks to working out a new peace initiative that will be presented to the United States as soon as it is completed. The meeting with the U.S. secretary of state was also attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to the United States. Minister Arens will confer with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, shortly.

U.S.-PLO Dialogue Opposed

TA0801102089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Israel has again expressed its firm opposition to dialogue between Washington and the PLO. This was relayed by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to his U.S. counterpart, George Shultz, over breakfast in Paris.

Addressing the press after the meeting, Mr Arens said that Israel is convinced that contacts with the PLO will not promote peace, and that if they can yield anything, it is additional acts of terror. Foreign Minister Arens added that the government in Jerusalem will devote the next few weeks to the consolidation of a new peace plan. Once it is finished, the plan will be presented to the United States.

Peres Sends Message to Husayn, Mubarak

TA0801130089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 89 p 4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The Labor Party supports negotiations with the Arabs under the aegis of the two superpowers. The Likud, too, expressed willingness to support this mode of negotiations if it proves feasible. The Alignment, however, is also willing to accept the patronage of the five permanent members of the Security Council. These remarks were made yesterday by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, who was addressing visiting U.S. Senators Nancy Kassenbaum and Joe McCain.

Peres asked the two senators, whose next destination is Jordan, to tell King Husayn that Israel has not yet despaired of meeting with him at the negotiating table "where we will prove our readiness to achieve a historic compromise." Peres told them that they can tell Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that the Israeli Government sees him as the central partner in putting together negotiations because he has proved stability, credibility, and moderation in not compromising over peace in the process of Egypt's return to the Arab world.

The finance minister condemned the PLO terror, adding that the context in which it occurs is often a gray area. A soldier hit by a stone cannot be expected to remain passive without defending himself, he said. "Why are they throwing stones while we are ready to talk?" he asked. Peres added that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad wishes to lead the Arab world, yet it is to be hoped that in the winter of his days, he will also attain maturity and a realistic view of the situation. [passage omitted]

Urges U.S. To Set Peace Agenda

TA0601175789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Israel must come to an agreement with Jordan and Egypt regarding the agenda of peace negotiations. In a meeting with two U.S. Republican senators, Peres said that he would agree to have the five permanent members of the UN Security Council summon the opening event of the negotiations, but in his opinion the issue would receive greater support in Israel if the opening event were summoned only by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Peres said he hopes the new administration in Washington will move immediately to set up an agenda and procedures for peace negotiations in our region and evaluate the PLO according to its actions. He pointed out that the residents of the territories are tired of the current situation and that if they were to see a chance for a solution, they might change the nature of the uprising.

Yitzhaq Shamir: 'We Do Not Trust Yasir 'Arafat'

TA0601133789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel wants to overcome the serious problems in the territories, but we do not trust Yasir 'Arafat because each day we hear his declarations on his intention to continue the struggle and the desire for all of Palestine.

The prime minister made the remarks to two U.S. Republican senators, McCain and Kassenbaum, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports.

IDF Says PLO Not Encouraging Terrorism

TA0801173789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that in today's Cabinet session senior IDF officers reported on changes in the PLO's modus operandi, saying that terrorist attacks are being carried out by organizations that are not members of the PLO. According to the officers, the PLO does not encourage terrorist attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets abroad, although it continues to support the uprising in the territories.

Minister Ari'el Sharon said in the Cabinet session that he had recently asked the prime minister to set up an authority in the territories, Jerusalem, and the Galilee to stop the attacks against Jews. According to Sharon, the prime minister replied: If we win a majority in the elections there will be quiet. Sharon retorted to this: The Likud has already won a majority in the elections and set up a government, but the security situation continues to worsen.

Netanyahu Denies Possession of Chemical Weapons

TA0701053689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has said Israel does not possess chemical weapons. Arriving in London he was asked by a British TV reporter if Israel possessed such weapons, and replied: No, we do not. We, ourselves, are very, very strict about the non-use of this weapon and not allowing it to proliferate into our area.

Shamir: Libya, Syria, Iraq Have Chemical Weapons

LD0801120489 Paris Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpt] In an interview published today by LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, states that Libya is not the only Arab country to possess chemical weapons. Besides Iraq, the Israeli prime minister also cites Syria. [Passage omitted]

'Improvement' Noted in Ties With Poland

TA0801192989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Sources in the Foreign Ministry tonight told our political correspondent Yig'al Goren that lately an improvement has been noted in the ties with Poland. The diplomatic representations in Warsaw and Tel Aviv are already operating independently and not under the auspices of other countries as has been practiced until recently.

RAKAH Revokes 10-Year Boycott of Egypt

TA0801121989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by correspondent in Galilee 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] RAKAH activists have revoked the boycott declared on Egypt during the decade since the Camp David accords.

In party organ AL-ITTIHAD's recent issue, Emil Habibi, editor and RAKAH political bureau member, has published an article announcing his forthcoming first visit to Egypt.

Although communist activists have traveled to Egypt in the past, the official party stand disapproved of visits indicating normalized relations in the wake of the Camp David accords.

Last month, Sami'a al-Qasin, RAKAH central committee member, visited Cairo where he was accorded various honors by Egyptian left-wing circles. The party publications, however, ignored the visit.

Despite this, Al-Qasin's visit apparently paved the way for a new RAKAH stand.

Sweden Rejects El Al's Security Demands

TA0701085389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 89 P A2

[Report by correspondent in Scandinavia Eliyahu Zehavi]

[Text] Although next week El Al is to be granted the right to land in Stockholm by the Swedish aviation authority, it will not be allowed to implement its airport security arrangements. Until now Copenhagen had been El Al's only destination in Scandinavia.

Despite the fact that El Al is defined by the Swedish press as an airline whose security standards are the highest in the world, its demands for security arrangements have been denied by Stockholm's airport authorities. El Al security personnel will not be authorized to carry weapons during their stay in the airport and the passenger and cargo checks will be carried out by the airport police. El Al personnel will be allowed only "to participate."

The El Al representative in Sweden arrived in Stockholm yesterday, and it is still unclear whether El Al will agree to the security restrictions.

Cabinet Agrees on 1.1 Billion Shekel Budget Cut

TA0601131689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpts] The cabinet late last night approved Finance Minister Peres's economic plan, including measures to cut the budget deficit by NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 1.1 billion and reduce the size of the public sector.

The vote was 18-2, with Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon and Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon dissenting. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Peres expressed satisfaction in the vote. He is now expected to push for an agreement with the Histadrut that would sharply reduce the cost of living allowance payable to workers.

In the coming days, details of the cuts will be worked out with the various ministries. The budget is expected to be presented to the Knesset later this month for approval.

The government has yet to decide how it will implement the decision to dismiss workers from the government ministries and reduce the public sector by about 3 per cent.

The cabinet meeting, which began in the morning, continued past midnight as Prime Minister Shamir and Finance Minister Peres were determined to get the programme approved.

Approval of the plan was made possible after Defence Minister Rabin agreed to cuts of NIS 120 million in his ministry's budget. Rabin said he was aware of the consequences of the cuts to the country's security, but he agreed to them because it was impossible to ignore the economic situation.

Economic observers maintain that the defence budget will not effectively be cut because the Treasury has already agreed to compensate the army for its intifada [uprising]-related expenses in the territories. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Agreement Gives Alignment 5 Overseas Posts

TA0801124689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres have signed a secret agreement according to which the Alignment will be entitled to five political nominations of ambassadors and consuls general.

When new Foreign Minister Moshe Arens learned about the agreement he tried to protest, but the agreement, signed a short while before the conclusion of the coalition negotiations, was already a fait accompli.

In light of the agreement, Arens will be unable to recall the ambassadors and consuls general appointed by Peres from among the Alignment ranks. These include the consul general in Atlanta, Muhammad Masrawa, and Peres' former spokesman, Yisra'el Peleg, who is now consul general in Philadelphia.

The Likud's political nominations quota now stands at only six. Arens intends to fill this quota soon, chiefly in U.S. representations.

Another clause of the agreement stipulates that Peres is to have privileges over the nominations of ambassadors to the United States and the United Nations. The appointment of these ambassadors will require the consent of the heads of both major parties.

Police Investigate Murder of Leading Palestinian

TA0701185689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] A leading resident of Al-Qubaybah in the Ramallah area has been murdered. Mahmud 'Abdallah Hammuda, 57, was brought to hospital in Ramallah last night with stab wounds all over his body. Family members said other Al-Qubaybah residents stabbed him during disturbances. REUTER says some residents of Al-Qubaybah described Hammuda as a collaborator with the Israeli authorities, but others called him a nationalist and said the accusations were false. Police are investigating.

Investigation Continues Into Taxi Driver's Death

Political Motivation Suspected

TA0701054789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli police and security forces are continuing their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the murder of taxi driver Shim'on Edri. Edri's body was found at the Yaqir junction in Samaria. The investigators say they suspect the murder was politically motivated. Edri's vehicle was found less than 2 km from his body. Footprints were found leading from the site of the killing to a nearby Arab village. Gush Emunim settlement leaders say they will establish a new Jewish settlement at the site of the murder.

A truck parked at a cinder block plant near Gilo on the southern edge of Jerusalem was slightly damaged last night by two Molotov cocktails. Sharpened lumps of metal was spread over Bar-Ilan Street in an ultraorthodox district of Jerusalem, and at least two cars had their tires damaged. The police are investigating.

Murder Tied to 'Terrorists'

TA0801054889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The police has determined that taxi driver Shim'on Edri was murdered by terrorists. Shim'on Edri's body was found last week near the town of Ari'el in Samaria. He had been shot to death.

In the territories, at least 12 Palestinians had been injured by gunfire in clashes with the Israeli troops. [passage omitted] The violence occurred yesterday on the eve of the general strike called for today and tomorrow marking a year and a month after the start of the uprising. [passage omitted]

A firebomb was thrown last night at Herod's Gate in Jerusalem's Old City wall. It caught fire, but no one was injured and there was no damage. The area is a staging post for the police.

The international telephone exchange is being reconnected with the territories today. Direct dialing abroad from the territories was cut off about 10 months, early in the uprising.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

10 Wounded 7 Jan

TA0701172189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Five local residents were wounded today in Judaea and Samaria in the course of incidents in various locations. In a violent confrontation with IDF soldiers in the village of Bani Na'im in the Hebron District two rioters were shot and wounded. In stone-throwing incidents in Nabulus, three stone throwers were wounded by IDF fire.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this morning a firebomb was hurled at a border police patrol in Bethlehem, but no casualties or damage were reported.

From Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem it was reported that a woman from Nabulus was brought in after being wounded by gunfire. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of her injury.

In the Rafah refugee camp in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, four residents were hurt in disturbances.

17 Wounded 8 Jan

TA0801172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] At least six people were wounded today in Judaea and Samaria in shooting incidents with IDF soldiers, and five others were injured in Janin by firebombs thrown at a Bank Leumi branch. The windshield of a bus was shattered in Halhul, bruising the driver's face. A bus was pelted with stones in Qalqilyah, smashing two of its windows. Two soldiers and a civilian who were among the passengers opened fire at the stone throwers but missed them. A private car was pelted with stones in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm. The passengers also got out of the car and opened fire at houses nearby.

Six people were wounded today in riots in Gaza. Curfews have been imposed on the Jabalyah refugee camp and on Gaza's Shabura neighborhood. Curfews remain in force in Al-Shati', Al-Nusayrat, and Dayr al-Balah. The incidents were reported by our correspondents Arye Gus and Moti Amir.

4 More Wounded 8 Jan

TA0801195889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Four Arabs were wounded today in riots in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. The riots took place in Khan Yunus and the Rafah areas. Riots also occurred in the area of Bayt Hanun, where stones were thrown at vehicles traveling on the roads while a general transportation and commercial strike was being observed there. Only a few laborers left for work in Israel.

Curfews were imposed on the Jabalyah and Rafah refugee camps and curfews are still in effect in the Al-Shati', Al-Nusayrat, and Dayr al-Balah refugee camps.

5 Gaza Camps Under Curfew

TA0801110389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Five Gaza Strip refugee camps are under curfew today. They are Jabalyah, Al-Shati', Al-Nusayrat, Dayr al-Balah, and Shabura. A full commercial strike is being observed in the territories today. Nearly all the workers failed to report for work in Israel today, with the exception of laborers from the Hebron District. It has been reported that many Gaza workers left the Strip last night to be sure to reach their places of employment before the strike took effect. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that public transportation functions only partially in most of the areas in Judaea and Samaria.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 8 January carries a report by Roni Shaqed, Tzvi Singer, and David Regev on page two, adding that "the IDF has forbidden fuel trucks to carry their cargo or any other inflammable material to the Nabulus gas stations. This instruction has come in the wake of a stoning incident involving one such truck approximately 10 days ago." The report adds, "On Thursday night the security forces cemented closed the home of Khalil Hawas, aged 31, from the Sabra neighborhood of Gaza. Hawas was detained 8 months ago and was charged with hurling firebombs at the security forces. The process took place without incident."]

Firebomb Incident in Wadi 'Ara

TA0801072889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Egged bus on the Wadi 'Ara highway. No one was hurt. The incident occurred last night, but our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that it was only announced this morning by the Valley District Police. The police carried out searches and investigations overnight, and arrested a 22-year-old Umm al-Fahm youth. Two more firebombs were discovered at the same site, approximately 150 meters from the entrance to the settlement of Me 'Ammi.

Settlers Attacked in Bayt I'nan

TA0601162689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Seven residents from the settlements of Pesagot, Bet El, and 'Ofra escaped from the village of Bayt I'nan near Ramallah around noon today after being attacked by villagers hurling large stones. The settlers fired their weapons in the air and fled the village area. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the seven were part of a group of hikers which had set out this morning to tour the area.

During the trip the group split up and the seven passed near the village of Bayt I'nan and were attacked with stones. The IDF was immediately summoned to the area and escorted the settlers to the Ramallah police station. The seven settlers were interrogated and released on self-bail. Their weapons were impounded and sent for a ballistic inspection.

An Arab resident of the village complained to the police that the settlers shot at houses in the village, damaging them, and smashed car windows. Up to this time, police investigators have not been able to enter the village because of rioting by villagers.

'Unified National Front' Criticizes PLO

TA0801123989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Jan 89 p 2

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The first copies of the latest leaflet issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising were yesterday disseminated in East Jerusalem. Leaflet No 32 expresses vehement objection to the concept of elections in the territories, which are defined as part of terrorist Shamir's plot.

Another leaflet has been disseminated in recent days throughout the West Bank on behalf of Palestinian organizations opposed to the PLO leadership. This leaflet attacks with acerbity the organization's current political direction, urges not giving up an inch of "the land of Palestine," and claims that the only way "to liberate Palestine" is through military struggle. This leaflet is signed by a new body calling itself the Unified National Front. Judging by the leaflet's contents, its authors include representatives identified with the organizations of Ahmad Jibril and Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], a Fatah breakaway group, with a Palestinian Communist Party splinter group, as well as former members of organizations included in the PLO. The leaflet calls on supporters of the zealot Muslim HAMAS Movement to join its organization's ranks.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 8 January in a report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef in section A, page three, adds that the Unified National Front "challenges the Unified National Command of the Uprising" "calling for the establishment of alternative headquarters that would represent streams unwilling to accept the U.S. terms for negotiations with Palestinians."]

Drug-Related Offenses, Crack Production Reported

TA0801142389 [Editorial report] Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 8 January carries a report by police affairs correspondent Natan Ro'i on page 6 on a new Israeli method of producing crack and a breakdown of narcotics seized in 1988 in the Tel Aviv area. According to a police official, last year 1,700 kg of hashish, 14 kg of heroin, and 8.7 kg of cocaine were found in and around Tel Aviv, plus another 12 kg of heroin intended for the Israeli market were captured in the Netherlands thanks to cooperation between Tel Aviv police and the Netherlands police. "The Israeli version of crack, which pros call freebase, is manufactured by cooking cocaine." In this process, 7 grams of cocaine yield 1 gram of crack, which is more potent than cocaine.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 8 January carries a report by David Regev on page 2, which says that "the Gaza District police have detained a 45-year-old mother of 12 from the Khan Yunus refugee camp after discovering approximately 200 grams of heroin in her bra. Two of her sons, aged 18 and 20, were also detained. Over the weekend, another Gaza resident was detained after 500 grams of heroin, worth 2 million shekels, were found in a baking implement in his kitchen."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 January on page 5 carries an ITIM report on charges submitted against Yefet 'Itur, aged 45, from Tel Aviv for selling "large quantities of heroin to addicts." 'Itur is charged with running a large drug-selling station in the Kerem Hatemanim district of town. 'Itur went underground for 45 days after being tipped that the police were after him. When the police finally caught him, 18.5 grams of heroin were found in his possession.

Heroin Dealers Arrested in Haifa District

TA0701090289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Last night the police arrested 14 drug pushers in the Haifa Bay area. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the Haifa District police raided the houses of 20 heroin dealers [number as heard] following the initial work carried out by an undercover agent.

Reportage on Visit of PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

Meets With King Husayn

JN0601164489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon.

'Arafat outlined Palestinian moves in the international arena and the positive results achieved during his meetings with leaders of the countries he had visited.

His Majesty King Husayn congratulated Yasir 'Arafat once again for the achievements scored by the PLO in massing international support in its latest move. These achievements show the PLO leadership's ability to deal with this question with responsibility and pan-Arab awareness. His Majesty King Husayn affirmed Jordan's support and backing for the PLO's move and referred to the necessity of such a move, which depends on a unified and coordinated Arab stand.

The meeting, which was interrupted by a working lunch, was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, political adviser 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and his majesty's special adviser, 'Amir Khammash.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, Bishop Iliya Khuri, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Muhammad Milhim.

Following the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat held a private meeting.

Received by Prime Minister

JN0601185289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received at his home this evening PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya.

The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, His Majesty King Husayn's political adviser.

Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman at dawn today. He was received by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and a number of high-ranking officials.

King Calls Talks 'Excellent'

JN0701131589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat resumed talks at the guest palace this morning, reviewing challenges facing the Arab nation and the existing brotherly ties between Jordan and the PLO.

Speaking to journalists, His Majesty King Husayn called the talks excellent and reiterated Jordan's full support for the PLO in the interest of the Palestinian people's aspirations. We have talked about all matters of common interest, said the king and added: Our known, constant position remains to fully support Mr 'Arafat and the PNC Algiers session's resolutions and his UN General Assembly's Geneva address. His majesty said he is happy to see the PLO assume its responsibilities, emphasizing Jordan's absolute support for Mr 'Arafat and the Palestinian brothers and their just cause.

Mr 'Arafat, meanwhile, expressed thanks and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and Jordan's brotherly, principled, and committed stands on the Palestine question not only in an official capacity but also by virtue of its standing on the Arab and world stages. In the name of all of our brothers and children of the stones we say that we are one family and one march until we pray in Jerusalem, God willing, 'Arafat added.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee members, as well as 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan.

Office Gains Embassy Status

JN0701133689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] To confirm its absolute support for the Palestinian people's struggle toward the attainment of their legitimate national objectives of freedom and independence and in keeping with Jordan's recognition of the independent Palestinian state to be set up on Palestinian soil in the spirit of the PNC's Algiers session as well as His Excellency brother Yasir 'Arafat's statements at the special UN General Assembly session in Geneva, and following on instructions by His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government has decided in agreement with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, as the party fully responsible for the Palestinian Arab people and supported in this regard by the entire Arab nation led by Jordan to regard the PLO's Amman office as an embassy of the state of Palestine as of today.

Flags Hoisted; 'Arafat Speaks

JN0701194089 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] A celebration was held today on raising the Palestinian flag over the embassy of the State of Palestine in Amman following the Jordanian Government's decision which was made at the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn to regard the PLO's office in Amman as an embassy of the state of Palestine. The Jordanian flag was also raised over the embassy building. On this occasion, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] His Majesty King Husayn's blessed decision to regard the PLO's office here in Amman as an embassy of the state of Palestine reflects a fraternal, principled, and pan-Arab stand adopted by His Majesty King Husayn through this one Jordanian-Palestinian family. This decision is a true, strong, and important support for the Palestinian march toward regaining holy Jerusalem, God willing, to raise these two flags once again over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. God willing, we will pray in the holy mosque there and celebrate together, not only for the sake of Palestine or Jordan, but also for the sake of the Arab nation and the establishment of the Palestinian state, which is an indivisible part of the one Jordanian-Palestinian family. We will be together until victory, God willing.

In my own name, and on behalf of my brothers—and this call for prayers is a sign of goodness and blessings—in my own name and on behalf of my brothers, from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of the stone children and the uprising people, I extend all meanings of thanks, which are being expressed by my heart before my tongue, for His Majesty King Husayn's principled pan-Arab stand toward his brothers and sons, the Palestinian people. Together until victory, God willing. [end recording]

Regarding the talks that were held between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I proudly say that, as usual, they were positive, constructive, and important talks, and they were permeated by a good and blessed spirit, which we are used to in all our meetings with His Majesty King Husayn. We discussed all aspects of the cause, foremost being the means to give a push forward to the peace process in the Middle East and to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. We have also discussed means to quickly hold an international conference for the sake of achieving this peace. Our talks also dealt with the importance of holding an Arab summit to support the Palestinian stand, and to extend a tangible and strong support for the march of Arab solidarity and the one Arab nation. We also discussed the Arab and international situations and the current developments regarding our Arab cause and its crux, the Palestine question.

[Reporter] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], what do you like to say to the uprising people after the Palestinian flag was raised in Amman today?

['Arafat] I tell them that this gift—announced in Amman today by His Majesty King Husayn—is not a gift to the PLO, but a gift to the uprising's people, children, women, and men. God willing, this flag, together with the Jordanian flag, will be hoisted over Jerusalem soon. [end recording]

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i spoke on this occasion. He said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Rifa'i] Today is a blessed day. God willing, the raising of the Palestinian flag over this building will be a step toward raising the Palestinian flag on the Palestinian territory and the Palestinian national soil when the independent state will be established. As my brother Abu 'Ammar said, God willing, we will see the day when the Palestinian flag will fly high over Jerusalem.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, what is the legal status of the embassy?

[Al-Rifa'i] There is nothing called a legal status concerning the embassy of the state of Palestine. We have recognized the Palestinian state, and the Palestinian embassy in Amman is like any other embassy here. This is from a legal viewpoint. However, from the actual viewpoint, of course, the Palestinian embassy has a special and distinguished role which reflects the distinguished fraternal relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and between the PLO and the Jordanian Government.

['Arafat] We proudly say that our PNC, in its successive sessions in Algiers, in Amman, and again in Algiers, and then still again in Algiers, has clearly pointed to these distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. This is why I said a short while ago that the two flags will fly over Jerusalem, God willing. [end recording]

Attending the ceremony were Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah, Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, and a number of PLO Executive Committee members and senior PLO officials.

'Arafat Departs 8 Jan

JN0801212889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Amman—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this evening after a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His

Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian and Arab moves to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

He was seen off by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; a number of ministers and senior officials; and a number of PLO Executive Committee members and senior officials.

AL-RA'Y Assesses Talks

JN0701120089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jan 89 p 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Jordanian Role and the Palestine Question"]

[Text] During his reception of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation, His Majesty King Husayn renewed Jordan's support for the current PLO moves. He pointed out the importance of basing these moves on a unified and coordinated Arab stand.

Needless to say, this is a continuation and a translation of Jordan's pan-Arab stand, laid down by his majesty, and gained strong momentum by the Jordanian decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. This decision paved the way for the declaration of the independent Palestinian state, which Jordan was among the first countries to recognize.

It is clear that the talks between His Majesty King Husyan and the Palestinian delegation, and his majesty's talks and contacts on the Arab and international scenes, continue the current Jordanian role aimed at expediting the convening of the international conference, so that the Palestinian people can regain their usurped land and excercise their national rights on it. Undoubtedly, this role, contrary to what insinuators claim, is basic and substantial to the peace process. This was asserted by Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah in his exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y published today.

Jordan has translated its lasting commitment to the Palestine question into constant moves aimed at coordinating Arab action, strengthening Palestinian impact, and developing the European and international stand in a way that brings increasing support for the Palestinian cause. In this respect, Jordan succeeded in defending the legitimacy of the uprising, so much so that the U.S. Administration itself rejected the Israeli attempts to portray the uprising before the world as if it were an act of terrorism.

Jordan managed to foil all pressures and attempts to obliterate the Palestinian role. It refused to be a representative of the Palestinian people or a substitute for the PLO in the peace process. This is an honest translation of Jordan's adherence to its pan-Arab commitment, in addition to being a firm stand that cannot be bargained with. Jordan also succeeded in making firm the conviction of the world community that Palestinian participation in the desired peace conference, through the PLO, is a basic factor for the convening of the conference.

It is, therefore, clearer than ever that the Jordanian role in backing the Palestine question is one of the most important foundations of the unified Arab action for the sake of this question, and that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is a translation of the strong relations between the two sides, which His Majesty King Husayn has always stressed.

Hostage Issue Worsens Syrian, Hizballah Ties

NC0601200089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Political sources who have connections with Syrian intelligence in Lebanon have declared that relations between Syrian and Hizballah leaders have taken a negative course threatening bad and bloody consequences. The sources attribute the causes for the deterioration of this relationship to several factors. The most important factor is that the Syrian regime resents the fact that the Iranian Government has backed down on its promise to release groups of foreign hostages held in West Beirut's southern suburb. The regime has further received indubitable information that Iranian leaders have instructed Hizballah not to hand over any hostage to Syria now.

The same sources said that another reason is that Hizballah is convinced that upon direct orders from Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [Syrian intelligence chief in Lebanon], Syrian Brigadier General 'Adnan Jallul detonated a rigged car when a motorcade carrying Hizballah leaders was passing by in Al-Biqa'.

Hizballah leaders also received information that Syria issued a high-level decision instructing Kan'an to continue assassination and liquidation operations against Hizballah leaders and officials. These sources expect Hizballah and Syrian intelligence officers to carry out reciprocal acts of assassination and liquidation in West Beirut and Ba'labakk.

British Envoy Appeals for Release of Hostages

NC0701072489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] British Ambassador in Beirut Alan Ramsay has urged the kidnappers of the hostages in Lebanon to release them immediately for humanitarian reasons. He appealed to all those who know anything about these hostages to do their best to ensure their release immediately. Ramsay explained that he is making his appeal with the approach of 1,000 days since the kidnapping of British hostage Brian Keenan. Ramsay maintained that there is no better time than now to make an initiative to free the hostages.

'Al-Hijaz Islamic Jihad' Claims Saudi's Killing

NC0601162289 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Beirut, Jan 6 (AFP)—A group calling itself the Al-Hijaz Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility Friday for the killing in Bangkok earlier this week of a Saudi diplomat. The claim came one day after another group, Soldiers of the Right, said it was responsible for assassinating Salah al-Maliki, the third secretary at the Saudi embassy in the Thai capital.

The Al-Hijaz, an ancient term for Saudi Arabia, said it had carried out "the judgment of God against the Saudi intelligence agent, Salah al-Maliki...to avenge the blood of our four martyrs."

Four Saudi nationals were executed in September by the Saudi authorities who said they were Iranian agents and found them guilty of a series of bomb attacks against Saudi installations.

The Al-Hijaz first surfaced the following month to claim responsibility for the killing of a Saudi diplomat in Ankara.

Mr Maliki was shot dead Wednesday by an assailant believed to be a Thai national, according to police in Bangkok, who also said the assassination may have been linked to a settling of scores rather than political motives.

Thai press reports have indicated that a conflict of interests had opposed Mr Maliki, who oversaw work applications by Thai nationals seeking employment in Saudi Arabia, and a placement agency. [sentence as received]

As Mr Maliki's body was flown into Jidda on Friday, the Saudi Foreign Ministry voiced hopes that the Thai aurhorities would soon unravel the mystery surrounding the diplomat's assassination.

The ministry, in a statement cited by the Saudi Press Agency, stressed that Riyadh would adopt additional measures to guarantee the protection of its diplomats and nationals abroad.

Soldiers of the Right, which issued its claim Thursday, has said it was also responsible for the attack in Karachi, Pakistan, last month on another Saudi diplomat, Hasan 'Ali al-'Amiri, who was shot in the jaw.

Reportage on Renewed Amal-Hizballah Fighting

Fighting Erupts 'Anew' in South

NC0601131389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The fighting between Amal and Hizballah has erupted anew in the South. Clashes involving the use of artillery, rockets, and machineguns are currently taking place along the combat lines of 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Al-Luwayzah, Al-Nabi Safi, and Jarju' in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

According to security reports, the Amal Movement waged an offensive against Jabal Safi from Nab' al-Tasi and Jarju'. However, Hizballah gunmen repulsed the attack and inflicted casualties on Amal, Hizballah sources say. [passage omitted]

Fighting in South Intensifies

NC0601152789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] According to the latest reports from the South, the clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah intensified as of 1600 this afternoon. Amal is pounding Hizballah's positions with heavy artillery and rockets. Military concentrations have been observed on both sides.

The situation erupted again this afternoon following the attack which Amal gunmen launched against Hizballah's positions in Jabal Safi from Nab' al-Tasi and Jarju'. Hizballah said that its men repulsed the attack and killed some of the assailants. It pointed out that the shelling of its positions continued after the offensive failed.

RFL on Clashes in West Beirut

NC0601200589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The security situation has again deteriorated in the western part of the old commercial markets [in West Beirut]. Clashes involving machineguns and rockets are now taking place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. Meanwhile, intermittent exchanges of gunfire are continuing between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the south.

Beirut Clashes 'Ferocious'

NC0701061089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The striking factor in the Amal-Hizballah dispute is represented in the transfer of battles to West Beirut for the first time since 25 November 1988. Ferocious clashes broke out betwen the two sides in the areas of Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Burj al-Murr, and Zuqaq al-Balat at 2100 last night. Machineguns and rockets were used in the fighting. A show of force by the Amal and Hizballah gunmen was spotted in the Al-Watwat and Al-Zarif areas.

Amal Attacks Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0701085889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday was replete with the Amal Movement's attacks on the Islamic resistance positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Also, the Nabih Birri groups transferred the battlefield to some areas in West Beirut.

At approximately 1430 yesterday, the Nabih Birri gangs carried out a wide-scale offensive on the Islamic resistance positions in Jabal Safi and Al-Luwayzah under the cover of artillery bombardment from their positions in Sarba, Jarju', and 'Arab Salim. The sound of exploding Grad rockets was heard throughout Al-Nabatiyah. According to reports, the Amal groups led the offensive from the Jarju' and Nab' al-Tasi axes. Sources from the Islamic resistance affirmed that the offensive had utterly failed to achieve its objective and that those killed from the Amal groups are still littering the battlefield.

Furthermore, an Amal group led by 'Adil Fahs, otherwise known as Abu Satur, tried to advance toward the Jabal Safi combat axes, but the Islamic resistance artillery checked the attempt, inflicting grave losses on the attackers. 'Adil Fahs, an official in the so-called Amal regular army, was wounded during the attempt and was transported to 'Ala' al-Din Hospital.

At a time when the situation was calm in the south, at 2130 last night, the Amal groups flared up the security situation in the Al-Antuniyah area in West Beirut. This flare-up later involved the areas of Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Al-Qintari, Al-Bastah, Fathallah, and Al-Nuwayra, through which several abortive infiltration attempts took place. At 0100 today, a cease-fire was agreed upon, followed by the withdrawal of gunmen and the deployment of the Syrian forces at the scenes of clashes.

Meanwhile, Amal troop concentrations were spotted in the areas of Wadi Abu Jamil and Al-'Ayzariyah. As a result of these concentrations and the provocative acts by the Birri groups, the situation exploded at 0230. This demonstrates the Amal groups' intention to transfer the battles from the southern suburb to West Beirut.

A precarious situation now prevails in the various areas and there are intermittent bursts of machinegun fire.

'Guarded Calm' in Beirut

NC0701113989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] While guarded calm continues to reign in the West Beirut areas which were the scenes of fierce fighting between Amal and Hizballah gunmen during the night, reports from the south indicate that skirmishes are currently going on between the two sides in Iqlim al-Tuffah. According to security sources, the battles which have raged over the past few hours in the south have left six people dead.

Birri on 'Final Solution'

NC0701123289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Amal leader Nabih Birri has rejected Hizballah accusations that the Amal Movement leadership is seeking to establish a security belt for Israel in the south. In an interview with the magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, Birri stated that the cause of the battles in Iqlim al-Tuffah was an advance carried out by Hizballah gunmen in the direction of Jarju' where Amal maintains positions.

The Hizballah gunmen had been stationed in Al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, and 'Ayn bu Siwar. Birri rejected the principle of having two parties maintaining security in the same area. He pointed out that the fighting erupted in the suburb because there were two parties there maintaining security. He recalled that fighting occurred in West Beirut between Amal and the PSP for the same reason.

Birri said he believes that a final solution to the current conflict will come through the victory of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's policy line over the Iranian Interior Ministry's policy line.

Birri Blames Iran for Fighting

NC0701172189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] In an interview with the magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI published today, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has put the blame on Iran for the current Amal-Hizballah fighting. The magazine quoted him as saying: There are inter-Iranian differences over how to tackle the situation in Lebanon. Iran's policy on Lebanon is being run from the Iranian Interior Ministry and not from the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Regrettably, this policy has been the cause of the catastrophes and tragedies which have befallen the Lebanese in general and the Lebanese Shi'ites in particular.

In a separate interview published in the same magazine, scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that Lebanese Shi'ites are responsible for the current fighting. He added that the official Iranian stand represented by all its leaders is united on this issue.

Syrian Troops Begin Raids

NC0701121289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1202 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] According to an exclusive Radio Free Lebanon report, the Syrian occupation forces began a campaign of raids on Hizballah offices in West Beirut at approximately 1330 today under the pretext of looking for arms and ammunition. The raids include the areas of Gaumont Palace and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq. We have also learned that a short time ago about 200 Syrian soldiers moved out from the Shatila Circle in the direction of Hawd al-Wilaya, where they have started to raid Hizballah centers.

Clashes Continue in Beirut

NC0701155589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Despite intensive Syrian deployment in West Beirut to control the situation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, clashes resumed between the two parties in Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq and al-'Ayzariyah at 1445 today and continued until 1530, when Syrian forces intervened, warning both parties after raiding Hizballah posts.

Hizballah sources said that the clashes were resumed because an Amal military official warned Hizballan gunmen to evacuate their positions in tense areas. When he tried to implement his warning this afternoon, the situation heated up and gunmen of both sides engaged in fighting using shells and machineguns. Tension prevailed in Burj al-Barajinah when gunfire was directed at an Amal post in the area and gunmen appeared there.

According to reports from the south, skirmishes continue in Iqlim al-Tuffah between the two parties.

Fighting Continues in South

NC0801085289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The Al-Khandaq Al-Ghamiq and old commercial markets areas in West Beirut, which were the scene of violent clashes between Amal Gunmen and Hizballah fighters yesterday, are now witnessing a guarded calm, interrupted from time to time by bursts of sniper fire from Amal Sources. Calm also prevails on the southern suburb axes.

Meanwhile, reports from the south this morning say that at 0500 today Birri's gunmen began shelling Islamic resistance positions in Jabal Safi and 'Ayn bu Siwar with heavy artillery.

A responsible source in the Islamic resistance said yesterday that, for the 6th consecutive day and on orders from its command in Barbur, the Amal Movement was continuing to tighten the siege and cordon around the Islamic resistance combat lines in Jabal Safi and Al-Luwayzah, as if these posts were new camps that could quench these gangs' thirst for blood after Birri and 'Arafat concluded an agreement. The source added that the Islamic resistance mujahiddin, who are being blockaded by Israel and its agents on one side and by the tyrant and hypocrite gangs of the Amal Movement on the other, are still holding out in their position, despite the biting frost and the continued shelling and sniping.

With their backs and chests they are defending the future, security, pride, and dignity of our kinfolk in Jabal 'Amil. Their complaint is to God and it is against the Hypocrite leadership in the Amal Movement which is insisting on uprooting the defenders of Islam from the land of Abi Dharr al-Ghafari [military leader in early Islam history] in the service of the Zionist Jews, enemies of Islam and the nation.

Clashes Resume in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0801090489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen were resumed in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. The exchanges, in which artillery and rockets are being used, are concentrated in the town of Kafr Milki.

Amal Security Official Killed

NC0801102988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpt] According to reports from the south, fighting has been going on since this morning between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the villages of Jba', Kafr Fila, Kafr Milki, Kafr Hatta, and Kafr Bayt. Hizballah sources have neither confirmed nor denied a statement by an Amal Movement spokesman, which said that Hizballah groups infiltrated into these villages during the night and took control of them before the Amal Movement was able to mobilize its forces and regain most of the positions which Hizballah had seized.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Abu 'Ali Hammud, an Amal Movement security official, was killed in Kafr Milki. He was recently appointed by the Amal Movement as its representative in Australia.

Our correspondent in the south reports that a number of people were killed or wounded in the fighting and taken to hospitals in Sidon. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Wins Control of Towns

NC0801112389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] According to information received by Radio Free Lebanon, Hizballah gunmen have gained control of the towns of Jba', Jarju', Kafr Milki, and Al-Mujaydil in Iqlim al-Tuffah, and have opened the road between Jinsnaya and Al-Mujaydil. The Amal Movement gunmen are preparing for counterattacks.

Meanwhile, violent clashes are continuing between the two sides in other parts of Iqlim al-Tuffah. The clashes, in which rockets and artillery are being used, are concentrated in Kafr Hatta, Jurnaya, and Kafr Milki. Security sources have said that 20 Amal members have been killed or wounded, including Amal official Abu 'Ali Hammud. A Hizballah official from the Al-Dirani family has also been killed.

3 Dead, 43 Wounded in South

NC0801120888 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, Jan 8 (AFP)—At least three people were killed and 43 wounded as pro-Iranian fundamentalists on Sunday attacked four south Lebanon villages held by rival Shi'ite fighters, hospital sources said.

Hizballah and pro-Syrian Amal militiamen traded rocket and machine-gun fire in street battles in Jba', Kfar Milki, Kfar Hatta, and Jarju' in the valleys of the Iqlim al-Tuffah range, southeast of Sidon militia sources said.

At least three dead and 41 wounded were moved to local hospitals, including several civilians, correspondents at the scene said. Amal added that two seriously wounded militiamen were rushed to a Beirut hospital.

Wounded fighters taken to Sidon said several more bodies could not be evacuated because of the intensity of the clashes in the villages, which are home to an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 Shi'ites.

An Amal official, contacted by Agence France-Presse, accused Hizballah of staging a "massacre" in Kfar Milki.

The pro-Iranian militiamen killed at least ten people, including local Amal chief Abu 'Ali Hammud and members of his family, the official said. There was no immediate confirmation of the charge, which was denied by a Hizballah official in Beirut. [passage omitted]

Clashes Resume in West Beirut

NC0801151688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] According to latest reports, the clashes between Amal and Hizballah erupted again in West Beirut at around 1600 today, particularly in the Al-Nuwayrah area and the old market area. Machineguns and rockets are being used in the clashes, which have spilled over to the areas of Burj Abu Haydar and the vicinity of Al-Kawakib movie house.

In the south, violent clashes are continuing between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The fighting is centered on the areas of Jba', Kfar Hatta, Kfar Milki, Al-Mujaydil, and Kfar Bayt. Artillery and rockets are involved there.

Hizballah has announced that it has gained control of the villages of Jba', Jarju', Kafr Milki, and Al-Mujaydil and has opened the road between Jinsnaya and Mujaydil. However, Amal movement sources said the movement has retaken Kfar Hatta and is now on the verge of retaking Kafr Milki. They added that Amal is massing its forces near Kfar Milki, Jba', and Kfar Fila to launch a counterattack.

An Amal responsible source has accused Hizballah of bringing in gunmen from Al-Biqa' during the night through western Al-Biqa'. He said that these gunmen used roads controlled by Israel and the Southern Lebanese Army and were helped by some local elements. He added that these gunmen were brought to a number of villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah to commit a new ugly massacre when they infiltrated the villages of Kfar Hatta and Kfar Milki. The source also said that the Amal movement confronted the renegades after this massacre, fierce battles ensued, and the movement succeeded in retaking its positions.

AFP has reported that more than 28 persons were killed and 50 others were wounded during today's attacks between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Among those killed was Amal official Abu 'Ali Hammud. A Hizballah official from the Al-Dirani family was also killed. Three Red Cross medics were also injured.

PLO Forces To Act as Buffer

NC0801165889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The PLO has announced that its forces are willing to deploy between Amal and Hizballah forces in the south in order to end the bloodshed. A PLO spokesman said: We are willing to do this, particularly in view of the fact that we are expecting an extensive Israeli aggression that will be directed at all of us.

Syrians Deploy; Clashes Abate

NC0801171688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Syrian Arab forces were deployed in the areas of Al-Nuwayrah and Burj Abu Haydar this afternoon following the clashes that erupted there at 1500 today. The Syrian Arab forces have taken measures to halt the fighting. The clashes have abated but the number of casualties and extent of damages are not known yet.

Fatah Forces Deploy in South

NC0801173488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] According to the most recent security report from the south, the Amal movement is currently shelling the supply routes which connect Hizballah's centers in Al-Luwazah with ‘Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba‘. The report adds that the supply route between Al-Muharbiyah and Al-Hassaniyah has been closed as a result of an agreement reached by the Nasirites, the Palestinians and Amal movement. Fatah fighters have deployed in Al-Hassaniyah and Al-Mujaydil in the wake of Hizballah fighters' withdrawal at 1800 today.

80 Said Killed in South

NC0801204689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Our security correspondent has just reported that the ferocious battles between the Amal movement and Hizballah in the south have left 80 people dead and many others, including fighters and civilians, wounded. According to security sources, an indirect Palestinian intervention in favor of Hizballah was observed in today's battles.

Fighting Continues in South

NC0901064789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] According to the latest field reports, fighting broke out again between Amal and Hizballah in the Jba‘, Jarju‘, and ‘Ayn Bu Siwar areas this morning.

Battles ‘Raging’ Around Jba‘

NC0901082989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] We have just been informed that the Amal Movement has announced that it has tightened its control of Kafr Shillah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, following the clashes last night and this morning. It added that it is mopping up some of Hizballah's pockets and that battles are still raging on the outskirts of Jba‘ township.

The movement said that it is in control of half of Jba‘ on the ‘Ayn Qana side and that its forces are surrounding Hizballah groups which are inside the township. Some dead and injured persons have been taken to hospitals in Al-Sarafand and Sidon.

‘Ferocious’ Clashes Continue

NC0901113489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has regained control of Kafr Fila township and its fighters have entered Jba'. In the meantime, ferocious clashes are raging between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in a number of towns in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Jarju‘, ‘Ayn Bu Siwar, Al-Luwayzah and Al-Nabi Safi. Artillery and rockets are being used in the clashes.

In Tyre, the Amal Movement has arrested 150 persons on charges of dealing with Hizballah. In Al-Ghaziyah, 25 persons have been detained on the same charges.

Noticeable tension has been reported in western Al-Biqa‘, amid shows of force by both sides in Mashgharah and ‘Ayn al-Tinah. The sound of machineguns has been heard in Mashgharah.

Syrian General, Others Killed in Tripoli

NC0601190489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has said that a number of its gunmen laid an ambush at 1600 today for three Syrian intelligence officers in Mahallat Ra‘s al-Sakhr in the port area near the Al-Ahdab Hotel. The gunmen opened fire on their white Peugeot 504.

The organization also said that it sentenced the three Syrian officers to death for their involvement in destroying Tripoli and forcing its people to leave it in August 1985. It said that these officers are Brigadier General Sulayman al-Hasan, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Sha‘ar, and Major Muhammad Khalluf.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 6 January states in its report on the incident that "the Syrians were eliminated in the attack."]

Reportage on Visit of Saudi Crown Prince

Arrives 6 Jan

JN0601144489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 jan 89

[Text] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 1430 today on a visit to Syria.

At the head of those receiving him at Damascus International Airport was Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. After His Highness Prince 'Abdallah presented to Khaddam the members of the delegation accompanying him, they went to the dais and the the Saudi and Syrian national anthems were played. They then reveiwed the honor guard.

After his highness the prince shook hands with the senior officials receiving him—Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; ministers; and the staff of the Saudi Embassy in Damascus—he and Khaddam left in an official motorcade to the Tishrin Palace, the guest's place of residence.

Prince 'Abdallah is accompanied by an official delegation comprising: 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, assistant deputy commander of the National Guard; Nasir al-Rajihi, chief of the crown prince' court; Hamad al-Hammudi, head of the private affairs; and Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Meets With President

LD0601200689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, 6 Jan (SPA)—President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic, received His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minsiter, and commander of the National Guard, this evening at the palace in Damascus.

The meeting was attended by: 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn al-Muhsin al-Tuwayjiri, assistant commander of the National Guard; Nasir al-Rajihi, chief of the crown prince's office; and Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Damascus.

Afterward, the Syrian president and the crown prince held a private meeting.

More on Talks With President

JN0701065889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and commander of the National Guard, and the accompanying delegation at 1900 yesterday.

This meeting was followed by a closed meeting between the president and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam joined the meeting later. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and the current developments, the general Arab situation, and the possibility of reinforcing it and achieving Arab solidarity to serve the interests of the Arab nation within the existing consultations between Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Makes Press Statement

JN0701190889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Answering questions from Saudi and Syrian newsmen, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said the Syrian-Saudi talks touched on all of the issues of Arab concern. On Egypt's return to the Arab League, Khaddam said he would rather not discuss an issue that is still pending. No useful purpose would be served by discussing it with the media, he said, adding that Egypt is dear to all of us and is Syria's partner in its struggle with the Zionist enemy. Stepped up action is needed to move from the existing state of Arab affairs to a new stage, Khaddam added, saying that all of us are seeking to attain this goal.

Asked about the prospects for a restricted or ordinary Arab summit, the vice president said he knew nothing about a summit grouping Syria, Egypt, and Jordan. And in the event of an ordinary summit, it will be held as planned in Saudi Arabia.

Prince 'Abdallah gave a predeparture press statement which said:

My visit to sisterly Syria is part of Saudi Arabia's efforts, spearheaded by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to further Arab solidarity and Arab causes as well as Islamic causes. Our talks with brother President Hafiz al-Asad took place in the spirit of this context. We found the president fully understanding and accommodating with all the issues that came up for discussion, said Prince 'Abdallah.

He pointed out that the talks took up Egypt and Lebanon as well as Syria-Morocco and Syria-Iraq ties. Saudi Arabia, said his highness the prince, is working on bridging Arab viewpoints to promote Arab solidarity.

Prince 'Abdallah said Saudi Arabia and Syria salute the Palestinian uprising and the children of the stones in the occupied land. Both support this people who are seeking their freedom and the realization of their aspirations for a Palestinian state on their soil and land.

Departs 7 Jan

JN0701152389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and commander of the National Guard, left Damascus at noon today after a 2-day visit to Syria. Heading those who saw him off was Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. After shaking hands with Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; the ministers; the Saudi ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff, who came to see him off; His Highness Prince 'Abdallah and the Syrian vice president headed toward the dais of honor, where the Syrian and Saudi national anthems were played. Then they inspected the guard of honor.

Damascus Radio on Talks

JN0701160089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited Syria and held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on the region's situation, the general Arab situation and how to strengthen it, and ways to achieve an Arab solidarity that can serve the Arab nation's interests. The visit is also part of the exchange of visits by senior officials in both fraternal countries. These talks continue the existing consultations between the two countries and between senior officials in them. These are also intended to complete discussion of the topics which were projected by President Hafiz al-Asad, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during President Al-Asad's visit to Saudi Arabia.

When President Hafiz al-Asad meets with the leaders of fraternal Saudi Arabia, general Arab concern is the main topic of discussion. The Arab nation's interests in all the Arab countries are the goal and the motivation behind any move and position. Cooperation between Syria and Saudi Arabia under the international, regional, and Arab circumstances to improve and promote the Arab situation, remedy Arab relations, and clear the Arab atmosphere is a special effort intended to serve the Arab nation's interests in all the Arab countries and to confront what will be imposed on the Arabs by the international and regional developments during the coming stage.

It is not strange for Syria to call for Arab solidarity, explore the available factors for its achievement, and remove any possible obstacles to improving the Arab relations and building a real Arab solidarity. This is natural for Syria, its political method, and its strategic vision of the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its future. Syria, which is ready to go with any Arab country as far as it can on the path of unity, views Arab solidarity and joint Arab action to liberate the occupied Arab land and restore the Palestinian people's rights as a possible and necessary effort to achieve self-defense for all Arabs.

The achievement of Arab solidarity does not necessarily require resemblance of the political systems in all the Arab countries or identicality of viewpoints on all the political, economic, and social issues. Instead, it requires the existence of a joint feeling for danger, a faith in the one fate and future, and adherence to the right to self-defense and to the Arab land, rights, and honor. Arab solidarity will be in the interest of all the Arab countries because the danger that threatens the Arab land and rights is not restricted to one country, one Arab front, or a specific Arab regime. It is a comprehensive danger that threatens all Arabs, all Arab countries, and all Arab land and wealth far from or close to the military contact lines with the Zionist enemy.

The Arab division increases the danger, and the Arabs' rallying around their cause, land, and rights will increase their collective and individual capability of staging a comprehensive political, diplomatic, and economic struggle to defend themselves and their right to restore their occupied territories and guarantee their full national rights.

Syria has always extended the hand of Arab solidarity to the Arab brothers on the basis of a joint struggle against the enemy and the joint Arab action for the sake of the pan-Arab cause and the phased goals represented in liberating the occupied Arab territories, restoring the usurped Arab rights, and adhering to these two demands in any international endeavor to settle the problem in the region. The achievement of Arab solidarity is not a victory for a certain Arab side and a defeat for another side. It is a gain for all the Arabs, who want to defend themselves, land, rights, and honor and reject foreign hegemony, surrender, and submission to the enemy.

Afghanistan

Kawiani on Preconditions to Talks With Mujahidin

BK0701115689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 7 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah will not step down as a pre-condition to peace talks with the mujahidin resistance, a leading member of Afghanistan's Politburo said here Saturday.

Najmuddin Kawiani, a Politburo member in charge of international parliamentary affairs, said Mr Najibullah would only consider stepping down after a ceasefire was agreed with the rebels and "if the people want (him to step down), then he will obey the will of the people."

The rebels must first agree to hold talks with the Moscow-backed Kabul government, Mr Kawiani told a press conference at the Afghan Embassy. [passage omitted]

Mr. Kawiani insisted that the 200,000-strong communist PDPA, "could not be ignored" in any coalition government with mujahidin resistance groups.

"Without the PDPA to ensure peace in the country, it is absolutely impossible," he said, adding that the mujahidin had no experience of running the country, "only in destruction."

He said the PDPA would accept the return of former Afghan monarch King Zahir Shah if he could play a role in the peace process, but "not the return of the monarchy." But, he added, the party was waiting for the monarch to "say something concrete," following his talks last month with Mr. Voronstov in Rome.

Mr Kawiani also said there was no possibility of Moscow altering its timetable for the Soviet troop withdrawal, which is to be completed by February 15 in line with peace accords signed in Geneva last year.

Presidency Issues Statement on Talks 8 Jan

LD0801191089 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] The following is an announcement by the press department of the Presidency on 8 January: His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and that country's ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, in the course of his recent stay in Islamabad, on 7 January met with Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan. In this meeting Y. Vorontsov, while presenting a message from M.S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to the prime minister of Pakistan, expressed the Soviet Union's desire to improve and expand relations with Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, responded that Pakistan is interested in this expansion and mutual understanding and cooperation in various areas with the Soviet Union in the future.

Also during the meeting, the possible ways of solving the question of Afghanistan, which so far have darkened the atmosphere of Soviet-Pakistani relations, were discussed comprehensively. In this connection, the Soviet side pointed out that the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan prevents the return to normal living for millions of people, including those in Pakistan. This not only has a negative influence on the regional situation, but also on the world situation.

In addition, Vorontsov [words indistinct] explained all the matters relating to the solution of the situation in Afghanistan and specifically pointed out the necessity of ending war and bloodshed, which would be the turning point in the peaceful solution of the question of Afghanistan.

He also informed the prime minister of Pakistan about the proposals by Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, concerning the convocation of a peace assembly or an assembly for seeking peace with the participation of representatives of all political forces and the Afghan groups in order to lay a foundation for the formation of a broad-based government. In the meeting, all political measures (?and the) speeding up of the process of the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan were assessed.

The prime minister of Pakistan noted the desire of her country in making all-round efforts to maintain the constructive and logical solution of matters relating to Afghanistan. Both sides considered the idea of forming a consultative group in the near future, including the representatives of all Afghan political groups, as useful and emphasized the necessity of efforts in this regard. Both sides expressed interest in continuing contacts on all levels in order to consolidate cooperation and mutual understanding between the two countries, on international issues as well as all topics of mutual interest.

Also, as a result of the previous agreement and permission of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, Y. Vorontsov in his visit to Islamabad met with the representatives of the opposition of the Republic of Afghanistan to search for a peaceful way to resolve the Afghan situation. Both sides voiced their viewpoints in this regard. At the end of talks, it was agreed that such meetings should continue in the future.

Najibullah Interviewed on Peace Talks Prospects

LD0701194689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jan 89

["Text" of "recent" interview with President Najibullah by THE TIMES correspondent Edward Gorman; questions and answers read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Will the PDPA be able to remain [in power] after the withdrawal of the Soviet limited military units?

Answer: The PDPA is one of the major political foundations of our society. Our party, which is in the 24th year of its struggle—despite all conspiracies, intrigues, and difficulties—is forging ahead. With vigilance and the necessary expertise, it is in the forefront of the struggle. In accordance with the conditions and circumstances of the time, it makes use of various methods of work in accordance with the people's interests. Therefore, our party has managed to maintain its organizational structure in all kinds of conditions and circumstances and to embark on the (?perfection) of its ranks.

By having over 200,000 enthusiastic, patriotic, and fighting members, the PDPA has been transformed into an able and constructive force of the people and our society. Undoubtedly, it will have a formidable and historic role in our country's destiny as a powerful, organized political force.

In the 8 months since the signing of the Geneva accords—which led to 50 percent of the Soviet troops in 26 provinces returning to their country—the PDPA, together with its political allies inside the country and relying on the people, has managed—and obviously will continue to do so in the future—to satisfactorily defend the country's national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Question: Do you think that Mr Vorontsov can succeed in creating a transitional government in Afghanistan?

Answer: First of all, I want to point out that Mr Vorontsov's mission is mainly aimed at encouraging the various opposition groups to take part in talks in order to achieve a political solution of the Afghan issue. Of course, his mission is going on with the Afghan Government's agreement and in full conformity with the national reconciliation policy, which we support. As far as the creation of a government with broad social bases in Afghanistan is concerned, this issue depends on the Afghans themselves who should agree on this issue when they hold talks. In our view, no one group or political or military organization that can be effective in restoring peace should be ignored.

Question: Are you ready to hold direct talks with the mujahidin?

Answer: The Afghan Government has time and again announced that it wants to settle issues by political means and holding talks. In accordance with our national reconciliation policy, we have time and again proposed talks with the opposition. We are hoping that the armed opposition considers the current and objective facts of Afghan society.

It should not only prepare itself for direct talks with the Afghan Government for ending the war and restoring peace and security in our war-stricken country, but should also make earnest and sincere efforts to this end.

Question: What kind of role can the former king of Afghanistan play in the future government? Are you ready to hand over power to him and leave the scene?

Answer: We believe that Muhammad Zahir, the former king of Afghanistan, can play a useful role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and holding talks and a general dialogue between Afghans with the participation of all political forces. Of course, the nature of the role that can be played by the former king depends on his role in the realizing the national reconciliation policy and ending the war.

As I have said in previous interviews, the president of Afghanistan was elected at a Loya Jirgah by the representatives of the country's people. Of course, in the future also the will and views of our people can be observed and respected. It must be said that relinquishing power by this or that person or politician cannot solve the Afghan problem. In our view, the best and most practical way to solve this problem is to hold talks between all individuals, groups, and political parties inside and outside the country.

Withdrawal 'Depends' on U.S., Pakistan Moves

LD0901064189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 9 Jan 89

["President Najibullah Grants Interview to 'Ali Saderzada, FRG reporter"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 8, BAKHTAR—The talk held between Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union and Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan and representatives of the "Seven-alliance" is in fact the result of our direct contacts with the opposition and thus we consider it as a logical gain of the policy of national reconciliation, said Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in an interview to 'Ali Saderzada, a reporter of the FRG radio-TV here recently.

President Najibullah added that the mission of Yuliy Vorontsov should not be reckoned as an inordinary matter because the Soviet Union has signed the Geneva accords as a guarantor and the activity of the Soviet side represents its sense of responsibility for the implementation of Geneva accords and the resolution passed by the 43rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly for securing peace in Afghanistan. Now, the United States as another guarantor of the Geneva accords should also fulfil its responsibility in this connection.

Regarding the return of the remaining Soviet military contingent of the Soviet Union it should be said that it depends on the behaviour of the other side to fulfil its commitments on ending intervention in Afghanistan. It remains to be seen that how the situation develops and we will act accordingly.

President Najibullah added that the Governments of Pakistan and the United States should observe their commitments under the Geneva accords and thus to pave grounds for the full realisation of the accords.

Asked whether any chance has been observed in the policy of Pakistan after the death of Ziaul Haq, President Najibullah replied that although a tangible change has not been observed so far in the Pakistan's policy vis-a-vis the Republic of Afghanistan, we expect that such a change should take place based on the wills of the people of the country and to establish normal relations with Afghanistan.

Answering another part of the question President Najibullah said: "As I have earlier pointed out in my interviews the president of the Republic has been elected by the people's delegates at Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly. Of course, the will and view of our people are respectable in future as well". He also added that the withdrawal of this or that personality or political parties does not solve the problem of Afghanistan. In our view, he continued, the best practical way to the solution of the problems is the conduct of talks between all persons, groups and political parties inside and outside the country.

Mujahidin Continue Operations in Provinces

Down Helicopter in Takhar

BK0701144589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say last week the mujahidin shot down a helicopter near Talukan, the capital of Takhar, killing the pilot and the rest of the crew. According to another report, the mujahidin launched an effective attack on a security post in Tangi near Jalalabad city, seizing a large quantity of arms and ammunition. It is reported that this post is now fully under the control of the mujahidin.

Attack Qandahar Airport

BK0801153689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin continued their operations against Kabul regime troops last week. They attacked the town of Nahrin in Baghlan Province last Friday destroying a tank and a vehicle and killing five troops. A day earlier the mujahidin attacked (Khira Oswai) and occupied the town and many posts. They also arrested a large number of troops and captured a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

The mujahidin continue to apply pressure on ('Abdul Khalil), 10 km northwest of Jalalabad.

The mujahidin attacked troops near Qandahar airport killing three of them and destroying an armored vehicle. They also fired rockets at the airport and attacked Kabul troops at (Tarkoti). The runway was damaged and (?four posts) were occupied. The mujahidin attacked Kabul troops in and around Jalalabad killing seven and injuring eight. Fierce fighting took place between the mujahidin and Kabul troops at (Nadim), Nader Shah Kot, and Zazi Maidan in Paktia Province in which about 20 Kabul troops were killed or injured.

Shoot Down MiG-21 Plane

BK0901112289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have shot down a MiG-21 aircraft of the Kabul regime in (Rajkoh) in Vardak Province. They also carried out firing on (?Khowst) airfield, hitting an aircraft and damaging the airfield. Mujahidin have also attacked troops in and around Jalalabad, killing 4 of them and wounding 10 others besides hitting a tank and a vehicle.

'Extremists' Killed, Wounded in Operations

LD0801071588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 7, BAKHTAR—Detachments of the Afghan Armed Forces carried operations during the past 24 hours in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Helmand and Farah Provinces. An authorised military observer said to a BAKHTAR correspondent here today.

As a result of the operations tens of the extremists were killed, scores of them wounded and large quantities of their arms and ammunition, were either destroyed or captured.

Thirteen extremists were killed and 23 others wounded during several clashes occurred among the rebel rival formations in Kabul and Ghowr Provinces during that period.

'Mopping Operations' Carried Out

LD0801210189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting competent Armed Forces sources, BIA reports that today and yesterday the Armed Forces carried out mopping operations in response to enemy attacks and in order to defend our compatriots' peaceful life in some provinces.

As a result of these operations in areas around Khowst District, Paktia Province, a number of extremists were crushed and a vehicle loaded with enemy arms and ammunition was destroyed.

Sixteen extremists killed and 6 others with 3 weapons were captured when the Armed Forces carried out mopping up operations in Enjil District, Herat Province. During these operations a gun, two rocket launchers, four heavy machine guns, and four enemy hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of mopping up operations in Qandahar Province, dozens of extremists attached to the armed groups and opposition were crushed and many were wounded. The Armed Forces destroyed 15 rocket launchers, 2 mortars, 5 DShK's, 112 antipersonnel and antivehicle mines, 18 boxes of ammunition for various types of weapons and the enemy's 37 hideouts.

The extremist groups and armed opposition yesterday fired surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas in some parts of Helmand, Farah, and Qandahar Provinces. The Armed Forces retaliated and heavy losses were inflicted on the extremists groups.

The disagreement between the extremist groups and armed opposition has intensified as a result of violation of the cease-fire by some elements. BIA's military section reports that because of armed clashes between the extremists groups led by Salam and Mula Karim in Zabol Province, eight people were killed from the hostile groups and four others badly injured. As a result of another armed clash in the Deh Bala region, Nangarhar Province, two members of the extremists groups were killed and three were injured.

India

Akali Dal Calls for Strike To Protest Hangings

BK0601130389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, the bundh [strike] call given by the various factions of the Akali Dal in protest against the hanging [the two assassins of Indira Gandhi] has evoked a mixed response. While the response in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Bhatinda was almost complete, it was partial in other places.

Punjab on 'Maximum Alert'

BK0601160389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, a bundh [strike] call by various factions of the Akali Dal and others over the hanging [two assassins of Indira Gandhi] evoked a mixed response. The adviser to the state governor, Mr Ribeiro, told newsmen in Chandigarh that markets at some places in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Faridkot, Jullundur, and Ludhiana Districts were closed, while at other places the closure was partial. He said except for two to three incidents, nothing untoward has been reported from anywhere in the state. In one incident some miscreants set a Punjab Roadways bus on fire in Faridkot District. Some youths pelted stones at shops at a market in Patiala. In another incident, police recovered two bombs in Ludhiana. They were defused later.

Mr Ribeiro said buses plied on national and state highways but very few buses on rural roads. The main trains ran as normal, while train services on branch lines were curtailed.

Mr Ribeiro said the security forces all over the state have been put on maximum alert.

Sikh 'Militants' Avenge Hangings

BK0701064789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 7 (AFP)—Sikh militants shot dead at least 10 people in the northern state of Punjab in apparent revenge for the hangings of two Sikhs convicted of the murder of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Saturday.

Ten people, all of them believed to be Hindus, were killed in a raid by Sikh gunmen on Badowal village in the frontier district of Gurdaspur late Friday, the news agency said. PTI gave no further details of the killings.

They were the most serious act of violence since the early Friday hangings of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh for the 1984 assassination of Mrs. Gandhi.

Sikh separatists had threatened violence if the two were executed. Sikh militants had shot dead three villagers in Amritsar District shortly after the hangings.

Gurdaspur and Amritsar Districts, both of which border Pakistan, are known bastions of Sikh militants fighting for a homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure, in Punjab. The campaign has left more than 2,200 people dead since January 1988.

Security forces have been put on alert throughout most of the country to prevent a possible violent backlash to the execution of Satwant Singh, 24, and Kehar Singh, 57.

Army experts Friday defused two powerful bombs in Punjab's industrial city of Ludhiana.

12 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK0701091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead 11 persons, 10 of them at Badowal village in Gurdaspur District last night. Terrorists struck in the village firing indiscriminately. Some people were also injured. In another incident one person was killed in village Rhode in Faridkot District. A wayside railway station was set on fire in Alal village in Sangrur District.

Further on Killings

BK0701154089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 7 (AFP)—Sikh militants shot dead 10 Hindus and attacked a railway station in Punjab, parts of which observed a general strike Saturday [7 January] to protest Friday's execution of the two Sikh assassins of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Eight to 10 Sikhs armed with automatic weapons stormed a village in the northern state's Gurdaspur District late Friday and killed the 10 after forcing them to line up against a wall, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS correspondent said. The victims, aged between 14 and 55 years, died instantly. A young girl was seriously wounded and taken to hospital, police said.

The dead men belonged to four Hindu families settled at Badowal village, 35 kilometers (21 miles) northwest of here, since the 1947 partition of the subcontinent by the British into India and Pakistan. It was the most serious violent incident following the hanging of Satwant Singh, 24, and Kehar Singh, 57, for the October 1984 assassination of Mrs. Gandhi here.

A 50-year-old woman villager, Hardevi, told journalists that the attackers had entered her house, asked her to make tea, then went outside and pumped bullets into the victims, who included her husband and son.

Sikh militants had threatened violence if the two condemned Sikh assassins, Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh, were executed, and security forces throughout india were put on maximum alert two days ago.

The AFP correspondent said the Bhindranwale Tigers Force, one of the half dozen groups campaigning for a homeland in Punjab, claimed responsibility for the massacre. In a note left at the scene, it said the murders were in retaliation for the hangings.

Sikh militants also attacked a railway station early Saturday in Punjab's Sangrur District and set it ablaze, destroying records, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI said Amritsar and Jullundur Districts in Punjab observed a general strike for the second straight day Saturday to protest the twin hangings. But no violence was reported. Bus services were affected by the strike, called by the militant All India Sikh Students' Federation, while banks, offices and schools were shut as a precaution by the local authorities.

Meanwhile express trains throughout south-central India were being searched Saturday after railway authorities in the city of Hyderabad received a bomb warning, PTI reported. The warning letter contained the slogan "Satwant Kehar zindabad" (long live Satwant and Kehar), and said a bomb had been placed aboard the Bhubaneshwar-Secunderabad express. No bomb was found on the train, but searches were extended to other expresses as a precautionary measure, PTI said.

Army experts had Friday defused two powerful bombs in the state's industrial city of Ludhiana.

The agency also said that the Supreme Court, in a special sitting Saturday after being petitioned by the son of Kehar Singh, had ruled that the ashes of the two dead men be handed over to relatives and disposed of by them under government supervision at a time to be set by the government. Officials had earlier said relatives would be denied the ashes, for fear they would be used to create shrines to the dead men.

More than 2,220 people have died since January 1988 in the bloody Sikh separatist campaign.

Delhi Radio on Killings, Strike

BK0701160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, 14 people have been killed by terrorists in separate incidents since last night. Ten members of a family were killed by terrorists in Badowal village in Gurdaspur District last night. Terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a brick kiln in Village Manakpura in Amritsar District this evening killing four laborers. Another delayed report said three members of a family were shot dead in a village in Ferozepore District on Thursday night [5 January]. Two of the five terrorists who struck in the village were overpowered by the people, who handed them over to the police.

Meanwhile, there was a mixed response to the bundh [strike] call given by the various factions of the Akali Dal and some other organizations on the second day today. According to an official spokesman, shops remained closed and buses were off the road in some parts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur District. State transport buses plied as normal on the national and the state highways.

Protesters Attack Radio Station in Gulbarga

BK0601161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Some people stormed the radio station in Gulbarga and disrupted its broadcast for about 5 minutes this afternoon. They were protesting against the failure to put out the news regarding the Gulbarga bundh [strike] yesterday. Police have rounded up six persons. The group damaged two vehicles and ransacked some office rooms. The mob also stoned the Doordarshan building causing damage to window panes.

Police officials say security arrangements have been tightened up.

2 Held in Kashmir for Plot To Hijack Plane

BK0601150889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Jammu, India, Jan 6 (AFP)—Indian security forces arrested a Pakistani-trained couple planning to hijack an Indian airlines plane in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, intelligence officials said here Friday [6 January].

Nazir Ahmad and Rafiqa [name as received] were arrested at Srinagar airport about 30 minutes before boarding the New Delhi-bound plane. Airport security seized unidentified arms and ammunition from Ms. Rafiqa's bag, officials said.

The suspects confessed to planning to hijack the aircraft and to force it to fly out of India to an unidentified destination, officials said. They entered India from the Pakistan-held part of the disputed region after receiving training in hijacking and sabotage from the Pakistan Army, they added.

Officials declined to give more details, adding that it would "not be in public interest."

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir, claimed by India and Pakistan since the subcontinent's independendence from Britain in 1947, have alerted security forces against the entry of suspicious people into airports, officials said.

Pakistan-Trained 'Extremists' Sought in Kashmir

BK0701065889 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 25 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Srinagar, 24 Dec (PTI)—The Kashmir police has launched an intensive search operation for 50 extremists sent here for acts of sabotage against the state. Reliable police sources said that according to police records, a total of 104 youths have been trained in camps in this connection at different places in Pakistan as well as in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Following the arrest of 50 of these youths under the Public Security Act, intensive search for those remaining at large is on now. The police have arrested 41 suspects to collect information about these extremists.

The sources said a large quantity of arms have been recovered from those arrested. These include 28 Kalashnikov rifles, 5,000 cartridges, 150 hand grenades, 12 revolvers, 20 guns, 6 rockets, and 100 kilograms of explosives. The sources add that with these arrests and recovery of the arms reserve the whole structure of the extremist groups is in disarray.

The sources said that the leaders of Kashmir Liberation Front, in cooperation with Pakistani secret agencies, had enlisted youths from various organizations for weapon training in Pakistan. According to the sources many leaders of the front and Pakistani secret agents had visited the state early this year and distributed objectionable pamphlets and books to these youths.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir government has deployed 20 Army units in the border districts of Kupwara and Baramullah to prevent infiltrations of terrorists.

Light Water Leak Reported at Nuclear Power Plant

BK0801031589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] An investigation has been ordered into a light water leak from the south end shields last month in one of the units of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant. An official spokesman said in Bombay that the leak appeared when the unit was operating steadily at a power level of about 90 megawatt. Detailed investigations will be carried out from Monday [9 January] after allowing a cool-down period of 10 days.

Importing of Nuclear Material From FRG Denied

BK0601162889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] An official spokesman today denied a report in a section of the press that India illegally imported some nuclear material from West German firms. It was alleged that the firms had exported reflector material and cadmium tubes to India and some other countries without obtaining government permission.

Responding to queries by newsmen, the spokesman clarified that reflector materials used in Indian nuclear research reactors are berylium oxide, graphite, and heavy water. No such reflector material mentioned in the press reports has been imported by India from the Federal Republic of Germany. He said India has, however, imported some cadmium-bearing stainless steel tubes from the firm following an open tender and competitive bidding procedure. He said this material cannot be termed as nuclear material.

Test of New Surface-to-Surface Missile Planned

BK0901092089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 9 Jan 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 9 (AFP)—India plans to test a new surface-to-surface missile it has developed in a bid to boost its own defence industry and slash defence imports, Defence Ministry officials said here Monday [9 January].

The test of the surface-to-surface missile codenamed Agni (fire) would be India's first attempt at launching a military rocket with the capability and range of an intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM), the officials said.

Agni, which caps India's ambition to develop locally-built world-class missiles, would have a range of 2,500 kilometres (1,553 miles) and would be launched in the coming months from a temporary test range in eastern Orissa State, the officials said.

The state-owned Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), which developed the missile, has not officially announced the scheduled date for the test, but defence experts here said the missile could be launched within the next three to four months. It would feature a first-stage solid propellant engine and a second-stage liquid-fuel motor which would use conventional strap-on technology.

In July India unsuccessfully tested a locally-built augmented satellite launch vehicle (ASLV) which crashed into the Bay of Bengal 150 seconds after take-off.

Scientists at the DRDL in southern Hyderabad city decided to use a conventional first-stage engine with a range of 1,500 kilometres (932-mile), similar to the one used in the SLV-3 class rockets and a twin microprocessor-based missile guided system, officials here added.

An IRBM-class missile would be capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads, experts said.

The Defence Ministry kept the missiles development a secret until now, claiming that work at DRDL only concerned the building of another surface-to-air rocket. [passage omitted]

India's defence spending in 1987-88 was 9.6 billion dollars, or 20 per cent of total government spending, and observers said it could reach 11.5 billion dollars in the coming financial year.

General Arrested for Passing Defense Secrets

BK0701164689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has arrested a retired Army officer, Lieutenant General Nirmal Puri, on charges of passing defense secrets to a Delhi-based arms dealer. Lieutenant General Puri, who was arrested in Delhi last night, was produced before the chief metropolitan magistrate today who remanded him to judicial custody till Monday [9 January].

Iran

'Text' of Khomeyni Letter to Mikhail Gorbachev

LD0801152589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 89

["Text" of the message from Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni to Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; dated 1 January 1989—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. With wishes of well-being and felicity for you and the Soviet nation.

Since your coming to power Your Excellency has started a new round of revision [baz-negari], change, and development in analyzing the political events of the world, particularly in connection with Soviet issues. As your courage and boldness [gostakhi] in confronting the realities of the world may become the source for change and may revolutionize the present formula of the world, I find it necessary to remind you of certain issues.

It is possible that the scope of your new thoughts and decisions may be only confined to seeking a solution to party difficulties, along with the solution to some of the problems of your people. Nevertheless, even to that extent, the courage to revise an ideology which for many long years has imprisoned the revolutionary children of the world within an iron curtain is praiseworthy. However, if your thoughts transcend these limits, the first issue which will certainly lead to your success is that you revise the policy of your predecessors regarding the elimination of God and religion from the society which has most certainly been the greatest and biggest blow to the people of the Soviet Union. A realistic approach to world issues is not possible except through this course.

Of course, it is possible that due to incorrect methods and wrong actions of former communist strongmen [qotratmandan] regarding economics, the grass might seem greener in the Western world [bagh-e sabz-e donya-ye gharb rokh benemayad]. However, the truth lies elsewhere. If at this juncture you wish only to undo the blind economic knots of socialism and communism by taking refuge in the bosom of Western capitalism, not only will you not cure any of the ills of your society; on the contrary, others should come and correct your mistakes. If Marxism today is facing a dead end in economic and social issues, the Western world is also afflicted with the same issues—of course in a different shape—as well as other issues.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev. One should turn to truth. The main difficulty of your country is not the issue of ownership, economics, or freedom. Your difficulty is the lack of true faith in God, the same difficulty which has also dragged the West toward decadence and a dead end. Your principal problem is a long and futile combat with God, the origin of existence and creation.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev. It is clear to all that henceforth communism should be found in the museums of world political history because Marxism does not answer any of the real needs of man. It is a materialistic ideology, and it is not possible to save humanity through materialism from the crisis of lack of conviction in spirituality which is the most fundamental ailment of human society in the West and the East.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev. It is possible that you have not positively turned your back on certain aspects of Marxism and that in future interviews you may express your complete faith in it. However, you know yourself that in reality it is not so. The Chinese leader delivered the first blow at communism and you have delivered the second and seemingly final blow at it. Today we no longer have anything in the world in the name of communism. However, I strongly urge you that in breaking down the walls of Marxist fantasies [khialat] you do not fall into the prison of the West and the Great Satan.

I hope that you will achieve true glory for eradicating the rotten layers of the last 70 years of deviousness of world communism from the face of history and from your own country.

Today the countries which follow your path and whose hearts beat for the sake of their homeland and people will no longer be prepared to waste their country's resources—both subterranean and above ground—to prove the success of communism, the sound of the breaking of whose bones has been heard by their children.

Mr Gorbachev. When after 70 years one heard from the minarets of the mosques of some of your republics the call "God is great" and the confession of faith in the prophethood of the Seal of the Prophet—God's salutation and benediction be upon him and his scion—all the supporters of the pure Muhammadan Islam cried with joy. Therefore, I find it necessary to remind you to think again about materialistic and divine ideologies. The materialists regard the senses as the criterion of cognizance in their world view, and they dismiss, from the realm of science anything which is not perceived through the senses. They equate existence with matter and regard anything which lacks matter as nonexistent.

Consequently, they regard as myth unseen realities, such as the existence of Almighty God, inspiration, prophethood, and resurrection. However, in the divine world view the criterion of cognizance includes both senses and reason. That which is rational is also included in the realm of sciences, although it may not be perceived by the senses. Therefore, existence includes both the unseen as well as the seen; and those things which lack matter can exist. In the same way that material things indicate abstract realities, sensible cognition also relies upon rational cognition.

The holy Koran rejects the basis of materialistic thinking. Some who imagine that God does not exist as he can not be seen, will say: We will not believe unless we can see God tangibly. The Koran says: He will not be seen by eyes while he comprehends eyes, and He is the most subtle, the all-knowing. Let us leave the noble and Holy Koran and its proofs regarding inspiration, prophethood, and resurrection to one side; for your views we should start at the beginning.

Basically, I do not wish to involve you in the labyrinth of philosophical discussion, particularly the discussions of Muslim philosophers. I only limit myself to one or two simple, intuitive, and rational examples which can be beneficial to the politicans. It is very clear that matter and corporate things, no matter what they are, are unaware of themselves. For a statue made of stone or a statue of a man, each side is hidden from the other side. We can clearly see that men and animals are aware of all their surroundings. They know where they are, what goes on in their vicinity, what a commotion exists in the world. Therefore, in men and animals there is another phenomenon which is above matter and which is separate from the material world and which with the death of matter does not die and lasts forever.

In his inner essence, man seeks perfection in its absolute form. You know full well that man wishes to be the absolute power in the world, and he does not set his heart upon any power which is defective. If he possesses the whole world, and is told that another world also exists, by nature he will also wish to possess that world. No matter how learned a man may be, if he is told that there are other sciences, by nature he is inclined to learn those sciences as well. Therefore, absolute power and absolute knowledge must exist so that man can set his heart upon it—that is Almighty God, to whom we are all inclined even though we may not know it ourselves.

Man wishes to attain absolute truth, so that he may become extinct in God. Basically, the desire for eternal life in the inner being of every human being is a sign of the existence of an eternal world immune from death.

If Your Excellency wishes to conduct research into these fields, you can instruct learned people in such sciences to refer, in addition to the books of the Western philosophers, to the books written by Farabi and Bu-'Ali Sina, God's peace be upon them, about Aristotelian philosophy. Thus, it will be made clear to them that the law of cause and effect, upon which all kinds of understanding are based, is rational and not cognitive. Also the understanding of general facts, as well as general laws upon which all kinds of reasoning rely, are also rational and not cognitive.

They may also refer to the books of Sohrevardi—God's peace be upon him—regarding the philosophy of illumination [hekmat-e eshraq] and they may explain to Your Excellency that matter and any other corporal existence are in need of pure light which is cleansed from any sensuality. Man's mystic understanding of his own inner reality is also free from sensual phenomenon.

You may also wish to instruct great scholars that they refer to the lofty philosophy of Sadr ol-Mote'allehin—may he be admitted to God's paradise and may he consort with God's prophets and saints—so that it may be made clear to them that the truth of science is a reality separate from matter and that any kind of thought is separate from matter and that it will not be subject to the laws of matter.

I will not tire you anymore, nor I will make any mention of the books of mystics, particularly those of Muhyiddin ibn 'Arabi. However, if you wish to become aware of the discourses of that great man, you should send a number of your sagacious experts who are well-versed in such issues to Qom so that after a number of years, through reliance upon God, they may become aware of the subtle depth of the stages of mysticism which are more subtle and intricate than a hair; because without such a trip knowledge of such is not possible.

Your Excellency Mr Gorbachev. Now after these comments and introductory remarks, I call upon you to seriously study and conduct research into Islam. This is not due to the need of Islam and Muslims of you; but rather due to the sublime and world-encompassing values of Islam which can be a means for the well-being and salvation of all nations and which can undo the knots of the fundamental problems of humanity. A serious study of Islam may save you forever from the issue of Afghanistan and similar issues in the world.

We regard the Muslims of the world as the Muslims of our own country, and we always regard ourselves as partners in their fate. With the relative freedom of religious ceremonies in some Soviet republics you have shown that you no longer think of religion as the opiate of the masses. In truth, is a religion which has made Iran steadfast as a mountain against the superpowers an opiate of the masses? Is a religion which demands the implementation of justice in the world and which desires the liberation of man from material and spiritual bondage an opiate of the masses?

Yes, a religion that is used to place material and spiritual resources of Islamic and non-Islamic countries at the disposal of superpowers and powers and that tells the people religion is separate from politics, that religion is the opiate of the masses, but it is no longer a true religion, but is a religion our people call American-style religion.

In conclusion, I openly announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the greatest and most powerful base of the Islamic world, can easily help fill-up the ideological vacuum of your system. In any case, as in the past, our country believes in and respects goodneighborliness and reciprocal relations.

Peace be upon those who follow the truth.

[Dated] 11.10.67 [1 January 1989]

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Shevardnadze Praises Letter

LD0901081289 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 9, IRNA—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze termed Imam Khomeyni's message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a "turning point" in Tehran-Moscow relations.

Speaking to Iranian reporters after meeting Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday evening, Shevardnadze said the imam's message would be "very effective" in strengthening future ties.

The imam in his message delivered by a special envoy last week called on the Soviet leader not seek prosperity in the West but to study Islam.

He also reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's desire for friendly relations with Moscow.

The Soviet foreign minister said President Gorbachev intended to reply.

Shevardnadze said present Tehran-Moscow ties were good but there was room for improvement.

"In our view the first step has been taken and now we must continue this trend."

Larijani on Letter, USSR Ties

LD0601155889 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—With the recent message of Imam Khomeyni to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Tehran-Moscow relations have entered a new phase, said Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani here Thursday.

Speaking in a press conference Larijani who was a member of the delegation which delivered imam's message to Gorbachev in Moscow on Wednesday, said that the bases for imam's message was the recent developments in the Soviet Union and respect for spiritual values and belief of human beings.

More on the message he said that it went far beyond the daily issues on the grounds that principles and values of the Islamic revolution of Iran are not only limited to the Iranian borders.

The imam in his message touched on the present situation of the human kind and stated the cause of human beings problems is not material things but rather their alienation from God and spirituality, Larijani added.

Imam Khomeyni's message also dealt with the developments in the Soviet society and he praised the Soviet leader for paying attention to spiritual values. The Soviet leader is the first world leader to receive such an important message from the imam, he told reporters.

The core of the message was an indepth analysis of materialism versus spiritualism he said adding that the text of the message is at imam's office which will be released if the imam deems it necessary.

The message has opened a new chapter in Tehran-Moscow relations at the highest level, said Larijani.

Larijani told reporters that there is no religious restriction on economic relations with the Soviet Union adding that Iran establishes ties with any country where it has interests. Expansion of ties with the East and the West does not mean accepting domination from either side. Relations are based on mutual interests and with respect to Iran's independence, he added.

More on Tehran-Moscow economic ties, he expressed the hope that they will increase by three folds in 1989 compared to last year.

He added that probably the West and the U.S. will try to misuse the issue (the message) and create tension in the region because they are fearful of Iran's independence and free relations with the world.

On attitude of the Soviet officials toward the message he said they considered it of utmost importance. Gorbachev told the Iranian delegation that he is planning to give more attention to spirituality.

The Soviet leader also expressed readiness of his country for an all-out participation in post-war reconstruction of Iran, Larijani told reporters.

Asked whether the message was connected to the recent developments in Afghanistan, he said that it certainly was because the Afghanistan crisis was caused by inappropriate Soviet foreign policy and negligence of Islam.

He said that the Afghanistan issue must be settled soon and the Afghans must be allowed to determine their own destiny.

On attitude of Soviet officials towards the Iran-Iraq peace talks, he said that they have frankly stated that they are for full implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Larijani Confers With Soviet Ambassador

LD0801105389 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir V. Gudev in a meeting here Sunday morning with Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani discussed result of the recent trip to Moscow of an Iranian delegation.

The Soviet ambassador expressed the hope that the recent message of Imam Khomeyni to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will open a new chapter in Tehran-Moscow relations. The move, he added, will have positive practical effects on bilateral relations.

Larijani also described the meeting of the Iranian delegation with the Soviet leader as a positive development adding that Tehran-Moscow relations has reached the highest stage at leadership level.

More on the meeting with the Soviet leader last week, Larijani said that they both held a common view on a new phase of bilateral relations and cooperation.

Paper Notes Visa Consultations With USSR

WA0901131989 Kabul THE KABUL TIMES in English 27 Nov 88 p 3

[Text] Moscow Nov, 25., (TASS)—A briefing at the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry on Wednesday was told that Soviet-Iranian working consultations on consular affairs were held on November 14-17 in Tehran. Victor Zelenov, chief of the consular directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, and A. Zifan, director-general for consular affairs of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, took part in the working consultations.

A wide range of problems related to the present state of and prospects for the development of the bilateral relations in the consular area has been discussed. The sides have agreed to issue visas to citizens of the two countries as promptly as possible. An agreement has also been reached to hold bilateral consultations on consular affairs on a regular basis.

The consultations were held in a constructive spirit, in the atmosphere of mutual understanding and goodneighbourliness.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0601205289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 6 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The current issues of the world and the country are truly important ones. There are two or three world issues affecting the Islamic world these days. Events have occurred about which our nation must have a clear idea and a full awareness.

One of these issues is that of Afghanistan. Today, thanks to the blessing of 9 or more years of selfless defense by the Afghan people—who alone and with their bare hands have struggled and defended their religion, country, and independence—thanks to the blessing of that just defense, signs of victory can be seen in Afghanistan today. The foreign forces that were in the country are in the process of withdrawal; some have left already.

The Afghan mujahidin are the true focus of world discussions on the Afghan issue. From the beginning of the Afghan issue, we stated repeatedly that the sole criteria with regard to the Afghan issue were the wish and will of the Afghan people. No one has the right to impose things on them from outside. Whichever government or system is accepted by the Afghan people is the legitimate and logical system for that country.

There were those who during these past years tried to hold us back from this position: Both of these groups—foreign politicians and those connected with other countries, and occasionally some domestic political players, as well, who had their own specific positions with regard to the Afghan issue. However, the passage of time demonstrated the rightness of our position. From the start, the Iranian nation, the system and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, laid stress in the Afghan nation and on the Afghan mujahidin. Today it has turned out precisely that way.

Of course, victory has not been achieved yet, but it is near. The Afghan brothers must not mistake the signs of impending victory for actual victory. They must continue to maintain their unity and steadfastness, and their faith in God so they can achieve full victory in Afghanistan, our neighboring, brother Islamic nation. We believe that this is divine providence, and God willing, that victory will be achieved through the people's steadfastness. [crowd chants]

Other foreign forces should not replace the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan do not wish to see another superpower or powers affiliated to it take the place of the Eastern superpower. No, this is not possible. There is no other solution to the Afghan issue except those which already have been discussed. The evidence so far points to that solution. At the moment the representatives of the people—who are comprised of the Afghan mujahidin and their leaders, whether those who reside in our country or those who reside in Pakistan—are the natrual leaders of the Afghan people. They will form a government. Later, people will select representatives in elections, reelecting a government of their own choice.

Another issue concerns Lebanon and its Muslim inhabitants. Of course, the issues of Lebanon and Palestine are inextricably entwined, since a group of combative and intrepid Muslims of the land of Palestine over the past few years have been exerting the utmost pressure on the usurpers of the land of Lebanon. The world was made aware of the fact that there are no other true fighters against the usurper government but the self-sacrificing and faithful Muslim youth of Lebanon. For that reason, the powers of global arrogance are exerting the greatest possible pressure on these Muslim believers of Lebanon. They are busily plotting means to incite sedition in Lebanon.

In my opinion, the conflicts that have arisen among the Muslims of Lebanon—the Shi'ites, the Hezbollah, and the Amal Movement—are not natural at all. There are various hands involved in masterminding and trying to realize these plots of the arrogant powers. We are sorry to see our Lebanese brothers fighting each other and the continued bloodshed. We deeply regret to see the events in Lebanon taking course that brings joy to foes and sorrow to friends. Unfortunately, that is what the situation is like today. Those were the days, when the guns were pointed at Israel. In those days, the foes were filled with sorrow and the friends with joy. Now, the enemy draws a sigh of relief. Why? Because they have induced our brothers to point their guns at each other.

Once again, from this tribune and through this microphone and in the presence of our sincere and intrepid people, I call on our Muslim brothers—the Hezbollah and the Amal—to pull themselves together. Do not fight each other; do not spill each other's blood. You are fighting a common enemy. Your enemy is the United States, your enemy is the Zionist regime; your enemies are the agents of Zionism within the Lebanese territory. Do not bring joy to your enemies by spilling each other's blood. The two groups should put aside their differences. Even when one group is set to kill the other, they should deal with this in a rational way because revenge is not the solution to any of the problems in Lebanon.

The innocent Palestinian fighters are still in the throes of fighting in the occupied territories. From the moment the calamitous deal proposed by the so-called spokesmen of the people of the Palestine began with the United States and Israel, even though the principal protagonists so far had not accepted it, the Zionists demanded more. Following this deal, the entire global apparatus is working toward mitigating the importance of the struggles waged by the Palestinian people. They are trying, through propaganda and other means, to wipe out any trace of the Palestinian struggle. [passage omitted]

Another event taking place these days which is of importance for the Islamic world is the U.S. attack on the Libyan aircraft that were shot down. I do not know why the Arab governments are remaining indifferent to this event, why they do not adopt the right and necessary position. The victim in this case was an Arab country. Is a threat against one Arab country not a threat against the Arab world?

Of course, to portray the event as justified, the Americans will not hesitate to distort reality. This has been seen in many events to which the Americans have been party. However, the facts in this event are clear. It is a question of bullying. This event underlines the spirit of arrogance that prevails in the Reagan administration in its last days.

Over the past 8 years in the current U.S. Administration, many calamitous events and a great deal of intimidation and aggression against other countries and nations have taken place because of such spirit of arrogance existing in that arrogant regime: from Grenada, to assisting the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries in Latin America and to various moves in the Middle East—such as the criminal operations in the Persian Gulf against the Islamic Republic at various times, the military attack on Libya 2 years ago, and the shooting down of the Iranian passenger plane in which several hundred innocent people were martyred—to this latest event.

In all these events, after committing crimes and soiling their hands with blood, the U.S. spokesmen announce that as far as they are concerned the matter is closed. This is the spirit of arrogance, which is the great danger threatening the human race, a danger greater than any other. By virtue of such an arrogant spirit, they regard the world as their private property. Human life has no value for them.

If one of their own planes is shot down, they make a great clamor engulfing the whole world. Then they accuse everyone; they make undue accusations without any evidence or clue. Yet, relying on their economic, propaganda, and technological powers, they feel free to do anything they want to any nation they please. This is the great calamity afflicting the world today. Humanity must rise against this arrogant spirit. Such threats are not directed only against the Iranian nation; they loom over humanity. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic is the only country that has stood rightly against such arrogant domination, resisting domination and refusing to surrender. [shouts of approval] That is why global arrogance is so obsessed with the Iranian nation and the regime of the Islamic Republic. [pasage omitted]

I must say a few words about domestic issues. Time is running out and in this cold weather I do not want to keep you long, dear brothers and sisters. During the past week, you saw two examples of leadership decisiveness in the country, each of them epitomizing the strength of the leadership in the Islamic Republic from its own dimension, as well as demonstrating the greatness of Islam and the Muslims.

One was this very profound letter of the iman of the ummah to the Soviet leader. It was a letter the like of which does not exist. Over the centuries, such correspondence between the leaders of Islamic and non-Islamic countries never has been observed. From his position as leader of the most powerful, faithful Islamic nation, the principal base of Islam, which is the Islamic Republic of Iran—which today, through God's benevolence, is the loftiest and most steadfast base of Islam—the imam presented in his letter the truth of Islam to the pinnacle of a world over which materialism holds sway. This is a great move.

The issue is not one of personalities or of whether anyone accepts or rejects the content of the letter. Of course, all over the world and throughout history, hearts that are aware always are ready to hear and accept the truth. However, the issue is one of presenting divine thought to the apex of materialism in a world that has wronged divine thought for so long, a world that has depicted divine ideology as defunct and antiquated. The dear imam has presented this issue to the leader of the Soviet Union, employing the most eloquent expression and the strongest message.

Of course, recent events in the Soviet Union reveal the fact that courage and boldness exist within the Soviet leadership. The leader is prepared to accept things that for years have always been rejected, provided he recognizes and understand them. This is a great and important thing. It is a notable characteristic that the imam has stressed. The imam considered it an important point, and he presented the righteous word of Islam and of God on that basis.

The letter is a very important one, and the truths it contains are incredibly great, enduring, and historical. The people addressed by that letter are all those who may be addressed by a sacred message. All nations, all leaders, all of humanity, at all times, are the ones addressed by that message.

Another of our dear imam's messages was the one he gave toward the end of last week to the Expediency Discernment Council. That, too, was a very important message because the imam affirmed the previous internal rules and regulations [a'in-nameh] of the Expediency Discernment Council. At the time the Expediency Discernment Council was formed, we of the council drew up the internal rules and regulations, and stipulated its powers and responsibilities in accordance with the imam's previous assertions. We sent those rules and regulations to the imam.

That was approximatley 9 or 10 months ago, when the Expediency Discernment Council was established. When the imam saw the rules and regulations, he added certain things to the powers we had stipulated for it because the circumstances were sensitive. They were the circumstances of a year ago: circumstances of war, bombardment, and missile attacks, a time that required rapid decision-making. When the circumstances changed, the imam approved those same rules and regulations we had proposed earlier and rescinded [elgha'] the additional powers he previously had given the Expediency Discernment Council out of necesssity.

That was the main point of the letter. However, what the imam stated additionally in the letter, addressing the honorable jurists of the Council of Guardians, who are the subject of the imam's affection and respect, also is very important. It is a great movement, looking at Islamic jurisprudence from that perspective is something that will create a tremendous development with respect to the various issues of our society and the solutions we will find. It is an incredibly important movement.

No one must imagine from the imam's statement that he has rejected Islamic jurisprudence [feqahat]. No, Islamic jurisprudence, as a method of understanding divine commandments, has been a subject of the imam's approval; it is subject to his approval now, and always will be. The issue is a different one; it is that of the effects of time and place on the decree [fatva] of a jurist who want to use that same method of Islamic jurisprudence. That is something which, if our honorable jurists and great scholars, particularly in the Qom seminary, will stress it, will open up for the people new chapters in Islamic issues and divine commandments. We will solve society's problems on the basis of Islamic thought and using the method of Islamic jurisprudence. Then we will not be caught up in the various labyrinths that arise in our scholarly discussions.

Looking at social realities, understanding social issues and the nature of the problem greatly affects the devising and discovery of solutions. There are many occasions on which, when we want to stipulate what is dictated by shari'a, that the nature of the problems is not clear to us, in other words, the external reality is not clear. The imam proposes to Islamic jurists, honorable and eminent jurists, to pay heed to place and time, meaning in reality, to identify correctly the nature of the problem and to base the divine commandment on the nature of that problem. That is a great movement. We feel that divine blessings still are being bestowed upon our dear leader.

It is truly one of the greatest events and occurences of our revolution that that spiritual sacred man, that luminous heart, continues every minute his movement toward human and mental development. He never stops. That is a tremendous lesson for us. That is God's blessing and grace bestowed upon our nation, our country, and our dear leader. O God, we beseech you in the name of Muhammad and his scion daily to increase your grace, blessings, compassion, guidance, and assistance to our dear imam. [crowd chants] Protect his noble and blessed existence for the sake of Islam and Muslims! In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

UN Chief: Talks With Velayati 'Very Important'

LD0801163289 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 8, IRNA—The secretary general of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar said his talks with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was "very important." He said Velayati had stated "in a very clear manner" the position of the Islamic Republic on the peace talks with Iraq.

Perez de Cuellar who was speaking in an interview with IRNA and a reporter of KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL after his meeting with Velayati this afternoon, also confirmed that his personal representative Jan Eliasson will soon travel to Tehran and Baghdad to explore the possibilities of making progress in the peace talks which are stalled over Iraqi refusal to abide by the Security Council Resolution 598 which Baghdad says it has accepted but does not respect it in practice.

The U.N. chief again voiced his concern over a lack of progress in the Iraq-Iran peace talks and "this is something we have discussed at length among other things with the Iranian foreign minister."

Asked if he had set a time for the next round of the peace talks he said no because, he added "there are no assurances they will be productive."

Three rounds of the peace talks have been held in New York and Geneva since August so far but no substantial progress has been made.

Expressing regret over the lack of progress in the peace talks Velayati in a letter he sent to Perez de Cuellar earlier this month announced that resumption of the talks without the implementation of the first article of the Resolution 598 would be meaningless. He however reserved Tehran's readiness to continue its sincere cooperation with Perez de Cuellar to this end.

Article One of the resolution calls for an immediate troop withdrawal to internationally recognised borders to be followed by an exchange of all prisoners of war.

In the interview Perez de Cuellar expressed hopes Eliasson's visit to Tehran and Baghdad will be helpful in paving the way for a progress in the talks.

He said it was inevitable to implement the Resolution 598 as all other resolutions of the Security Council were "compulsary." But when told that Iraq was blatantly disrespecting Resolution 598 by refusing to withdraw its troops to the border, he said "That's what we are working on to resolve."

Asked to comment on the Paris conference on chemical arms, Perez de Cuellar expressed hopes it will help speed up the work of the Geneva conference on disarmament.

Regarding Baghdad's repeated use of chemical arms in its war against Iran and against its own Kurdish people and that why the Paris conference did not take up the issue, Perez de Cuellar said the decision not to mention past records on the use of chemicals did not mean that the participating countries had forgotten the issue, "For obvious diplomatic reasons issues that could hinder the work of the conference had been avoided and this is only a political decision," he said.

He said as was clear the issue of the use of chemical arms was raised during the conference and that it was understandable that no direct reference be made to the users of the lethal weapons.

Papers Assail U.S., France Over Paris Conference

LD0701090089 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—Three dailies—ABRAR, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, and the TEHRAN TIMES—carried editorials in their Saturday issue on the Paris chemical weapons conference.

ABRAR said the most important issue which the conference, attended by some 75 foreign ministers, should deal with was to find practical ways to prevent the use of chemical weapons so widely used by Iraq.

"One responsibility of the Paris conference is to forward practical and principled ways to tie down countries (especially countries that have violated international laws on toxic weapons)," ABRAR said.

"(These practical ways) should be enforced to prevent the repeated use of deadly chemical weapons because in the past there have been many resolutions and statements condemning this issue but none stopped countries which deployed the weapons."

ABRAR said reforming the 1925 Geneva Convention which banned the use of chemical weapons was now most urgent due to the spread of such weapons and that violators such as Iraq should be named.

"If the conference limits itself to issuing imaginary resolutions and taking sides without naming the violators then it would not be taking a real step towards blocking the deployment of these weapons and in fact would pave the way for their continued use."

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on the other hand sharply criticized France for its role in the war and said the international meet was the "mask" France needed to "hide its unpleasant face as the collaborator in Saddam's war crimes".

"In reality the Paris conference is a tool in the hand of the French Socialist Government to represent itself as uninformed about Iraq's war crimes," it added.

In addition JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI believed the United States was bent on showing Iraq's use of chemical weapons as "unimportant" and was trying to divert attention from Baghdad's crimes by launching a propaganda campaign on Libya's alleged chemical weapons plant.

"Washington's greater aim is to tell the Paris conference to refrain from dealing with the past and that it must look into the future and in particular to focus on the production of chemical weapons in the Third World."

The TEHRAN TIMES also believed that Paris was "least qualified" to host the conference in view of its vast military sales to Iraq during the war.

"In view of France's indirect condonement of the Iraqi regime's actions during the war and in view of the fact that Iraq is one country which flagrantly used chemical weapons... any Western capital would have been better and a happier choice" for the conference.

The paper said Iran as the worst victim of chemical warfare "will be most interested in progress and results of the conference" such as ensuring "such tragedies will not ever be made possible again."

Further on Editorials

LD0801094589 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—The dailies JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and ABRAR strongly criticized the Paris conference on chemical weapons for calling indirectly on the participants from over 140 countries not to name offenders.

"The philosophy behind the formation of this international conference is the horrendous crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commented Sunday. "All these crimes... should not be forgotten under any circumstances," it said.

In his opening speech Saturday, President Francois Mitterrand whose country chairs the conference attended by some 80 foreign minister said the gathering "is not going to be turned innto a court of justice".

Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati was the only speaker on Saturday to disregard the tacit rule by naming Iraq for its extensive and unprecedented gas attacks during the war leading to 50,000 casualties.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was one of the speakers who refused to identify Iraq.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the conference should be a considered an international trial against Iraq's war crimes but the U.S. and France by "creating limitations" for the conference were "supporting the criminal (Iraq)".

"It is this sort of attitude towards the criminal that has created the grounds for the Baghdad regime's impertinence," it added.

ABRAR which began its editorial by describing the tragedy of Halabjah—the scene of the worst chemical attack of the war when 5,000 Iraqi Kurds died last March—said the Paris conference must consider the injustice done to the defenceless people.

"The terrifying screams of 5,000 inhabitants of Halabjah must be echoed through the confernce tribune," it said.

"If the Paris conference continues its activities in the same direction it has started, it does not look as if it will have any kind of success," ABRAR added.

"This conference has taken its stand in advance and has turned a blind eye on the war criminals. For this reason one cannot hope much from this conference."

Commentary on Paris Conference

LD0801103789 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] With recent comments by Saddam Husayn, head of the regime ruling over Iraq, about continued deployment by Baghdad of chemical weapons, apparently the Paris conference seems [words indistinct] to have lost its desired objectives, which aim to ban every sort of production and deployment of chemical weapons in the world.

Despite the fact that the initial motive behind convening such a conference was to confirm the 1925 Geneva Protocol due to the repeated deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime in its war against Iran, with the announcement on not denouncing the violating states, led by Iraq, one must consider as lost the results which can be hoped from convening that conference.

The other day, Saddam, while addressing Iraqi militarymen on the eve of the inaugural of the Paris conference, said: Iraq's commitment to the Geneva Protocol is in no way in the sense that we are willing to ignore deployment of the means that go to guarantee our national security. The Iraqi officials who constantly used such a sentence in justifying the deployment by Baghdad of chemical weapons, now, too, give reassurances, while again confessing to the deployment of chemical weapons, about easing the same in future.

Frank comments of Saddam on the eve of the inaugural of the Paris conference undoubtedly reflect the statement by French foreign minister, Roland Dumas, that he did not consider the object in convening the Paris conference to denounce the deployers of chemical weapons. Dumas has said in his interview that the goal of the Paris conference on chemical weapons is not to (?review) past acts, to examine the deployment of chemical weapons in recent years, or to set up a tribunal to try the countries which deployed those weapons.

The French foreign minister, who is due to host and chair the Paris conference, without naming the Iraqi regime, considered it sufficient that chemical investigations carried by the UN experts, from 1982 onward, in relation to recent deployments of chemical weapons [passage indistinct]. In these investigations, especially in the latest reports prepared by the UN experts on the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons, those experts have expressly named the Baghdad government as a factor that deployed chemical weapons against Iranian militarymen and civilians.

Despite that, none of those reports have thus far led to Iraq's denunciation by the United Nations or the UN Security Council. Such a disregard, which is on account of a clear-cut collaboration of the West with Iraq in the production and deployment of chemical weapons, has (?right from the start) of the Paris conference threatened it with the danger of failure.

Mr Dumas, chairman of the conference, while attacking those who consider chemical weapons as the deterent (?ones), and, in this respect, saying that chemical weapons not only do not act as a deterrent or do not prevent war but, on the contrary, create tension, horror and further losses in the crisis-torn regions of the world; at the same time, by stressing nondenunciation of the violating countries, neutralizes the convening of the conference.

Prior to that, too, Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister of the Iraqi regime, in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, while referring to the issue that chemical weapons have been put at the disposal of Iraq by Western states, which after their deployment by it are now shedding crocodile tears for the victims, had in advance caused the failure of the Paris conference. [Word indistinct] experts believe that members of Iraq's representative delegation have come to the Paris conference in full preparedness. Truly speaking, does there not exist any guarantee that in the event of an inclination on the part of the Western states to denounce the Iraqi regime, Mr Tariq 'Aziz may not show to the audience, from behind the tribune of the conference, the documents on the purchase of chemical weapons from Western countries?

Earlier in his interview with the Kuwaiti daily, Tariq 'Aziz had warned against the probability of such an action. That was a warning which has apparently proved effective and its impact can be well observed in the comments of Mr Dumas.

Musavi Reiterates Support to Libyan Envoy

LD0801163489 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—Libyan Charge d'Affaires Ahmad al-Ash'ab in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Sunday thanked the Islamic Republic for condemning the January 4 U.S. downing of two Libyan fighter jets.

Musavi, reaffirming Iran's full support for the Tripoli government, noted "U.S. military aggressions will not undermine your country but rather your resistance against Washington's terrorism is considered a victory for you."

Musavi noted that the United States is hostile to any country unwilling to consider Washington its master.

Last Wednesday, U.S. naval warplanes shot down two Libyan jet fighters, which were on a routine flight over the Mediterranean Sea. The U.S. Administration by accusing Libya in recent weeks of producing chemical arms is planning to launch a new aggression on this country.

Majlis Speaker on Relations With Gulf States

LD0801155789 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 8, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to expand ties with Persian Gulf littoral states in various fields, declared Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday.

"The wartime conditions inflicted substantial economic losses on all of us and now since the (Iraqi) war has apparently ended efforts should be made to make good on the losses," Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Iranian diplomatic corps to Persian Gulf states, now here on a homecoming visit.

The diplomats briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments in the region and on ties between the Islamic Republic and the Persian Gulf Arab states.

Foreign Ministry on Palestinian Anniversary

LD0101181689 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—"A ceaseless indefatigable struggle is the only alternative against the illegal Zionist entity and its policy of terror and massacre," said a Foreign Ministry statement today.

Released on the 24th anniversary of the Palestinian Muslims' armed struggle, the statement lauded the ongoing intifadah in the occupied land—now in its 2nd year—and called for liberation of Palestine.

It also urged Muslim countries including Arab states to mobilize all their might to weed out the "cancerous Zionist tumor" and strive for an independent state in the "holy land of Palestine."

Further on DPRK Trade Minister's Visit

Economic Agreements Signed

LD0501175189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] In the last round of talks betwen Iran's Construction Jihad minister and the DPRK external economy minister conducted today, the two parties laid emphasis on the expansion of technical and economic coperation. Two memoranda of understanding were signed between the two countries in the talks. On the basis of the memoranda of understanding, the two countries will increase their cooperation in the fields of fisheries, the generation of electricity from hydraulic sources, small rural industries such as manufacturing glass, china, and ceremics, and plans for rural development.

Included in the memoranda of understanding is an agreement to hold a joint commission of the two countries on a yearly basis taken in turns.

Interviewed Before Departure

LD0501214589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The DPRK minister of external economic affairs left Tehran this afternoon following a 10-day stay in Iran. He was seen off by Construction Jihad Minister Foruzesh.

In a predeparture interview with our correspondent, he described his talks with Iranian officials as very successful. Stressing his country's positive position toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that the DPRK will, as before, fight alongside the Iranian people in the anti-imperialist trenches.

Our correspondent states that for his part, our country's Construction Jihad minister said in the interview that the bases for further bilateral cooperation, particularly with regard to economic matters, were examined at the talks.

On the basis of the memorandums of understanding that were signed, Iran will benefit from Korea's experience and technology in the fishery, shipbuilding, water resources, hydroelectrical power, mining, steel, and rural industries, in exchange for exports of crude oil and various kinds of concentrate.

10 Drug Smugglers Hanged in Tehran

LD0701101289 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—Ten international operating drug smugglers were hanged in Tehran Saturday morning.

The sentence were carried out after the smugglers were tried by the Islamic Revolution's Court in charge of the anti-narcotics campaign. The court found them as the best examples of the corrupt on earth, said a statement by the Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office in charge of anti-narcotics campaign.

The smugglers, all male, were hanged at Tehran's Qasr Prison and Bani-Hashim Square, northwestern Tehran.

The statement stressed a vigorous campaign against drug smugglers stating that these corrupt elements are serving the interests of enemies of Islam and the revolution. It warned narcotics dealers to repent their acts and return to Islam. It added that the court in reply to repeated request of the public demanding eradication of drugs, and along with the people, is determined to carry out a vigorous campaign for eradication of drug trafficking.

Each of the smugglers were found guilty of many crimes, including possession and sale of as much as 76 kgm of heroin, 530 kgm of opium, establishing drug distribution network in various Iranian cities, armed clashes with security and disciplinary forces and possession of arms.

Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili said in Kerman on Thursday that there will be no amnesty for drug smugglers. The new anti-narcotics law is to go into effect on January 21.

Statement Issued on Execution

LD0701173489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Excerpts] In line with the strict confrontation with drug smugglers and the merchants of death, 19 bandits and professional smugglers were sent to the gallows in Tehran, Mashhad, Kerman, Zahedan, Bam, and Jiroft. In connection with the execution of the merchants of death, the following statement has been issued by the anti-narcotics Headquarters:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Persons whose occupation is discovered to be the procurement and distribution of narcotics are clear examples of people on earth who are striving to corrupt and destroy future generations, says Imam Khomeyni. It is clear to everyone that the battle of Muslim Iranian nation against colonialists is a vital one and a battle to the death. By the same token, the colonialists, too, in an all-sided manner and by resorting to various ploys, strive to break the strength and resolute determination of the nation, particularly the courageous youth.

Colonialism, whose various ploys during the last 10 years have been defeated, this time, through the merchants of death and international drug smugglers and by means of the dissemination of corruption and addiction, intends to break from within the society which breeds such unshakable wills and such honorable and enemy-fighting youth. It is as a result of that fact that evil hands are engaged in increasing addiction throughout the country in order to destroy he roots of joy, happiness, and victory among our youth.

The Anti-Narcotics Headquarters will continue, as its national and shari'a duty, its battle against the merchants of death until the decisive annihilation of all the roots of deviation and corruption which are active in international drug networks. Thus it considers as treachery against the rights of the Iranian nation any sense of compassion for the people who have no pity on our nation's youth and who, for the sake of making some money, turn the lives and health of our people into instruments of their own gain.

In line with that battle, 10 people were condemned for forming a gang for the distribution, purchase, and sale of narcotics and for drawing youth into corruption and addiction. They received the punishment for their shameful acts in Tehran today. [passage omitted]

In addition, in accordance with the sentence of the Islamic revolution courts for combating narcotics in Kerman, Mashhad, and Zahedan, another nine people were sent to the gallows on charges of distributing narcotics, the possession of 100-160 kg of opium and several kilograms of heroin, and long records in connection with drug-smuggling. [passage omitted]

The Anti-Narcotics Headquarters thanks all the Hezbollah ummah and all those who participated in the destruction of narcotics distribution networks; it asks all young people to participate, as before, with a sense of responsibility and with revolutionary committment in this holy jihad and to identify and expose the real agents behind the distribution of narcotics. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker Addresses Intelligence Seminar

LD3112162988 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—A seminar of intelligence officials of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) opened here Saturday with a speech by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his address, Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed as "invaluable and important" the work undertaken by IRGC intelligence units is invaluable and advised them to display "great care, vigilance and decisiveness in reporting cases you come across." [sentence as received]

"The honesty, sincerity and faith of the devoted people who have joined IRGC has facilitated your work but this does not necessarily mean that the organisation is immune from any danger," he cautioned.

The acting armed forces commander-in-chief warned that the enemies of the Islamic revolution were trying to infiltrate "this sacred organ (IRGC)" in a bid to defame and derange it.

"If God forbid they (enemies) succeed, the round-the-clock selfless efforts of devoted youths who are doing all within their power to serve IRGC would come to nothing," he said.

Later, head of the IRGC intelligence section Hojjat ol-Eslam Sa'edi outlined the performance of his section in the past and commented on the objectives of the three-day seminar.

Khamene'i Comments on Selection Panels

LD0601201289 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday considered employment boards as "filters" for recruiting talented individuals for organizations to which the Islamic Republic attaches special importance.

In a meeting with members on the occasion of 7th anniversary of the formation of selection boards, the president thanked selection boards and exhorted these officials to avoid naming inexperienced or naive persons as "selectors" for the recruiting panel.

The selection boards were formed upon the orders of Imam Khomeyni for employing qualified and committed personnel in important state organizations.

Majlis Approves Work Bill for Invalids, POW's

LD3012205688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 88

[Text] Our first news report concerns matters approved at today's open Majlis session.

A bill on employing war invalids, POW's, and members of the families of martyrs, invalids, POW's, and those missing in the revolution and in the imposed war, as well as those who have spent at least 9 months continuously or 1 year's intermittant voluntary service at the warfront, was approved today after its second reading by Majlis deputies.

A Central News Unit correspondent reports that under the bill's single paragraph provisions, effective from the date of the approval of the bill, all ministries, government firms and institutions, banks, and firms controlled by them, municipalities, and government firms which the law requires to be identified by name—as well as nationalized and confiscated firms and those institutions which in some way benefit from government assistance or budget allocation—may, having observed the relevant regulations, employ the staff they require on an establishment or contract bases according to priorities and after securing legal authority, from among the invalids of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war who are able to work, those POW's who are released or will be released, and members of the families of martyrs, invalids, POW's, and those missing in action, and those who have had at least 9 months continuous or 1 year's intermittant voluntary service at the fronts once they have been nominated by the State Organization for Administrative and Employment Affairs on the basis of employment regulations and criteria, and the relevant placement procedures.

In addition, the employment of daughters, spouses, and mothers of those covered by the bill will be authorized to participate in educational, health and treatment work or other jobs approved by the State Organization for Administrative and Employment Affairs.

Musavi Reportedly Threatened by 'Rivals'

TA0601182889 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic regime, has set up a special personal security guard. This guard consists of IRGC personnel who are totally trusted by Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

It is being said in Tehran's informed circles that in recent months Mir Hoseyn Musavi had been threatened several times by his rivals in the ruling circle, and he even was told to draw conclusions from the fate that befell Dr Kazem Sami. In the wake of this threat, Mir Hoseyn Musavi dismissed his former guards and chose new personal guards. The new guards receive their salaries from the IRGC. Mir Hoseyn Musavi believes, though, that they will remain loyal to him and that he will be immune to the danger of assassination.

Resistance Claims 12,000 Prisoners Killed

LD0301212189 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2300 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The mojahedin of the Iranian people have made an appeal against executions. In a communique released in Rome, they stated that Iranian prisons were reminiscent of Hitler's concentration camps in the last days of the Third Reich. The organization for Iranian resistance mentioned that 12,000 political prisoners had been shot dead in the past months, and made an appeal to international public opinion for efficient measures putting an end to the increasing spate of executions to be taken.

Pakistan

Further on Soviet Official's Visit to Islamabad

Vorontsov Meets Rebel Leaders

BK0601121489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 6 Jan 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, June 6 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leaders met here Friday [6 January] with Soviet Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov and insisted on the removal of the Moscow-backed government of Afghan President Najibullah, informed sources said. Mr. Vorontsov, who is also a Soviet deputy foreign minister, and a joint delegation of Pakistan- and Iran-based rebel leaders met for more than two hours before breaking for lunch and Friday prayers.

They will resume their first meeting in Pakistan at a second round of talks after a two-hour interval. Mr. Vorontsov had a first meeting with rebel leaders in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, last month.

"The talks are difficult and crucial" for both parties, said an aide to the chief of the Pakistan-based seven-party rebel alliance Sebghatullah Mujadeddi.

Mr. Vorontsov shook hands with Mr. Mujadeddi at the start of the talks at the Pakistani Foreign Office, said the sources. Mr. Mujadeddi made no comment on the talks' progress pending the conclusion of the current round of parleys.

"The fact that they are meeting again in two hours shows they are making progress on some issues," a source close to rebels side observed.

Resistance sources said the decision to resume discussions was made overnight after intra-Afghan dialogue among rebel leaders who had held until Thursday morning divergent views on the talks. Sources here said the Soviet side has agreed to consider a mujahidin demand to drop the communist leaders from a successor government. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Receives Vorontsov

BK0701143689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Rawalpindi today. He conveyed greetings on behalf of Soviet President Gorbachev on being elected prime minister. He also delivered a message from President Gorbachev which said the changes in Pakistan have created new opportunities for the improvement of bilateral relations and for bringing them to the level that existed during the tenure of the late Pakistani leader, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Referring to the Afghan issue, which has yet to be settled, the Soviet president expressed the hope that the Pakistani Government will assist in constructive, positive talks among the Afghans for a solution to this problem.

Ms Benazir Bhutto asked the Soviet deputy foreign minister to convey her thanks to Gorbachev for his congratulatory message. She expressed the hope that an early solution to the Afghan issue would open up a new chapter in Pakistani-Soviet relations. She said the Vorontsov's visit has provided an opportunity for the fruitful exchange of views in connection with a peaceful solution to the issue.

Vorontsov Holds News Briefing

BK0701163489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] The Soviet Union and Afghan alliance leaders have agreed to set up a consultative group comprising various Afghan factions to work on setting up a broad-based government in Kabul. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this evening at the end of his 4-day visit to Pakistan, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister and the Soviet ambassador to Kabul, Yuliy Vorontsov, made this statement. Describing it as a step in the right direction, he said that besides the mujahidin based in Pakistan and Iran, the Government of Pakistan has also consented to this. He said its objective is to set up a broad-based government in Afghanistan at the earliest time as provided in the latest UN resolution.

He said the United Nations can play its role in this connection because the secretary general has been assigned the task of assisting the Afghans in setting up a broad-based government. However, Vorontsov stressed that the representatives of all the parties and groups concerned in the dispute should participate in this sort of consultative group.

Referring to his talks with the mujahidin leaders, Vorontsov said there has been some progress at the talks although the pace was slow. On the next round of talks, he said as soon as the mujahidin are ready negotiations will be held. The Soviet Union has invited the mujahidin to visit Moscow after having mutual consultations.

The Soviet first deputy foreign minister said the rest of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan will be withdrawn in line with the Geneva accords. However, if the Soviet forces are attacked, there may be some delay in the withdrawal.

Mr Vorontsov expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with the Pakistani leaders on bilateral relations. He said he has had detailed and useful talks with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Pakistan's foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan, also answered the queries of newsmen. He described the talks as positive and fruitful. He welcomed the decision to set up a consultative group with the Afghan alliance and described it as a positive step. He said both the Soviet Union and Pakistan agree that the internal administration of Afghanistan is the right of the Afghan people and they only have to make a decision on this. However, both countries will give assistance in this regard to the extent possible. To avoid unnecessary bloodshed is in their own interest.

Pakistan welcomes the decision to continue the process of talks between Pakistan and the Soviet Union and between the Soviet Union and the mujahidin. The foreign secretary said: From our talks the truth has come forward that the total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan according to schedule is in the combined interests of the Soviet Union and Pakistan. Instead of a military solution, a political solution should be sought there and the refugees should go back to their country.

On the cease-fire proposed to the mujahidin by Kabul and the Soviet Union, the foreign secretary said if the aim of this cease-fire is to create a conducive atmosphere to the Kabul regime, then it is obvious that it will not acceptable to the mujahidin. He referred to the offer of the mujahidin to exercise restraint for a smooth withdrawal of the Soviet forces. He also referred to the stand of the mujahidin that the basic cause for this issue is that the Kabul regime is not acceptable.

On the allegations of Geneva accords violations by Pakistan, the foreign secretary said the allegations leveled or complaints lodged against Pakistan so far were found to be baseless after investigations by the United

Nations Goodwill Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In this connection, he referred to Pakistan's complaints about cross-border violations by Afghan planes.

AFP on Vorontsov Briefing

BK0701161489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 7 (AFP)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov said Saturday [7 January] that the Soviet Union would withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by the February 15 deadline but warned they would stay if attacked. Two rounds of talks had ended Friday with Mr. Vorontsov assuring Afghan resistance leaders that the Soviet pullout would be completed by the deadline and with both sides agreeing to continue direct talks on a broad-based Afghan Government.

"If there is all-out fighting and attacks on the Soviet forces, then we will have to fight and not withdraw," he told a press conference here Saturday.

Mr. Vorontsov said the Soviet Union had withdrawn half of its estimated 150,000 troops from the country and that the "commitment to withdraw the other half would be fulfilled."

Resistance leaders rejected both a cease-fire call by Mr. Vorontsov and his suggestion that the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan must be represented in any new government. Foreign diplomats here said Mr. Vorontsov's main aim was to obtain a cease-fire before the pullout as part of a face-saving exercise by Moscow, which has been fighting the mujahidin resistance for the last nine years.

"I don't understand why the mujahidin are not accepting a cease-fire when we all know military victory is not possible and the solution is only political," he said at the conference.

"They should stop shooting and can keep the places they hold while we negotiate," he suggested, adding that attempts to grab military power would be resisted and that the responsibility for any future killing would now rest with the resistance groups.

Mr. Vorontsov said Afghan President Najibullah was "prepared to accept a new government installed through peaceful means."

He said the Afghan Government was strong enough to defend itself after the Soviet troops pull out, but added: "If there is no broad-based government we will support the present regime."

He said there had been "some movement" in the talks and that he hoped resistance leaders would "come with new thinking" to future talks, adding that the mujahidin had been invited to fresh talks in Moscow. Also present at the press conference was Pakistani Foreign Secretary Humayun Khan.

During the conference Mr. Vorontsov sharply criticised Pakistan's support of the mujahidin and read out clauses from the Geneva accords banning the provision of shelter and support to the resistance. The accords were signed by Islamabad and Kabul last April and guaranteed by Washington and Moscow.

"Pakistan is not fulfilling its obligations, and training camps have not been disbanded and flow of arms not ceased," Mr. Vorontsov said. The violations could make a strong case in the international court of justice, he added.

In reply, Mr. Khan said: "We do have our complaints also," adding that Kabul did not abide by the accords and that border violations had continued.

Mr. Vorontsov denied that the supplying of long-range Scud SS-1 missiles to Kabul after the accords was a Soviet violation of the agreement.

"We are also concerned about the supply of a new type of U.S. missiles being used in killing the Afghan people in Qandahar and Jalalabad," the Soviet minister said. He described his talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as useful and hoped the two countries would be able to improve their economic and political relations.

Press reports here quoted resistance sources as saying the mujahidin delegation had sought permission to speak to the Soviet people on national television and to visit Muslim-dominated republics in the Soviet Union to present the mujahidin viewpoint.

Mujahidin Hold News Briefing

BK0901084589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin alliance leader, Professor Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, has said a meeting of the proposed shura [consultative assembly] will be called in Peshawar in about a month to decide about the temporary leadership in Afghanistan for 1 year and to arrange the holding of elections. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning.

In reply to a question, he said they will invite some good Muslims in Kabul administration to participate in the shura meeting, and it is up to them to attend or not.

Answering another question, Prof Mujadeddi said during their talks the Soviet side had offered that mujahidin should lead the broad-based government that should include the PDPA. He said they would be ready to visit

Moscow once the Soviets complete their withdrawal and stop supporting the puppet regime. The mujahidin are ready to give a (?safe) passage to the withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

No More Talks With Soviets

BK0901075589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 9 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas will not hold any more talks with the Soviet Union on the future of the country, resistance chief Sebghatullah Mujadeddi said Monday [9 January].

"The mujahidin will continue their jihad (holy war)" until the Soviets withdrew totally from Afghanistan, he said, adding that he blamed Soviet envoy Yuliy Vorontsov for the deadlock.

"We hold the Soviets responsible for the deadlock and break negotiations," the leader of the seven-party Moslem resistance alliance based in Pakistan told a press conference.

Mr. Mujadeddi announced that the alliance would not have future contacts with the Soviet Union only two days after leading a resistance delegation in direct talks with Mr. Vorontsov.

Mr. Vorontsov is Soviet first deputy foreign minister and his country's ambassador to Kabul.

The rebels said last week they had agreed to continue the dialogue, but had changed their minds after Mr. Vorontsov gave a press conference in Islamabad Saturday where he said Moscow would continue to support the present government if no agreement was reached on a broad-based future administration.

Mr. Mujadeddi said Mr. Voronstov was "not sincere" when he said that the Afghan Government was strong enough to defend itself after Soviet troops pull out.

Mr. Vorontsov told the Islamabad press conference that Moscow would withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by the February 15 deadline set under a U.N.-brokered accord but warned that they would stay if they were attacked.

Further on News Conference

BK0901101089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Jan 9 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels will not hold any more talks with the Soviet Union on the future of Afghanistan, resistance leader Sebghatullah Mujadeddi said Monday [9 January].

"The mujahidin, both in Iran and Pakistan, will now continue their jihad (holy war)" until the Soviets withdraw totally from Afghanistan, the leader of the Pakistan-based seven-party resistance alliance told a press conference.

Karim Khalili, who heads the Iran-based Shi'a resistance, was also present at the press conference and said he supported the Pakistan-based mujahidin's stand. Mr. Mujadeddi announced that there would be no future talks with the Soviet Union only two days after he led a resistance delegation in talks in Pakistan with Soviet envoy Yuliy Vorontsov.

"We hold the Soviets responsible for the deadlock and break of negotiations," Mr. Mujadeddi said, adding that Mr. Vorontsov was "not sincere" about finding a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

"We believe the negotiations are unproductive and unnecessary because the Soviets use threats, look for war rather than peace and disrespect the Afghans' right of self-determination," Mr. Mujadeddi said.

The talks could only be resumed "if the Soviets change their position."

"We participated in the negotiations with complete sincerity and intended to achieve an honourable and lasting solution" to the nine-year-old Afghan conflict, the resistance leader said.

But "the Soviet delegation had no practical and sensible proposals. They are not ready to end their interference," he said.

"The Soviets have threatened that if their terms are not accepted, they will supply new sophisticated weapons, to prop up the Kabul regime." [passage omitted]

Mr. Mujadeddi on Monday reiterated the resistance rejection of the cease-fire, but said that if the Soviet troops pulled out unconditionally the rebels would not attack the withdrawing forces.

Mr. Mujadeddi warned that "Moscow's efforts to retain the puppet regime responsible for the deaths of more than 1.3 million of our people will protract the war and kill more of our people."

In answer to a question on the resistance proposal of a shura (council) of 400-500 people to select a new government, Mr. Mujadeddi said that only "good Muslims" in the present Kabul government could be included.

"Najibullah is not a good Muslim," he said.

Mr. Mujadeddi said he did not oppose the return of former Afghan King Zahir Shah if the Afghan people accepted him as their future leader.

He also said that 30,000 to 40,000 mujahidin were in Soviet custody.

"We have reports that the mujahidin prisoners have been transfered to Siberia and other places in the Soviet Union," he added.

In addition to the mujahidin prisoners, there were some 10,000 to 20,000 Afghan children in the Soviet Union, Mr. Mujadeddi said.

The resistance had demanded that they be returned, but Mr. Vorontsov had said that there were only "some hundreds of orphans" in the Soviet Union, he added.

AFP Assesses Peace Talks

BK0901031689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0305 GMT 9 Jan 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 9 (AFP)—Soviet negotiator Yuliy Vorontsov failed in his talks here to obtain what has become Moscow's top priority in the search for an Afghan settlement—a cease-fire between Kabul troops and the resistance.

"I don't understand why the mujahidin are not accepting a ceasefire when we all know military victory is not possible and the solution is only political," Mr. Vorontsov told a press conference Saturday.

"They should stop shooting and can keep the places they hold while we negotiate," he added after two rounds of talks with the rebels Friday.

Moscow's only real objective at this stage is achieving a cease-fire before some 50,000 Soviet troops who remain in Afghanistan and still play a key defence role finally pull out of the country, observers said.

Mr. Vorontsov Saturday once again raised doubts on whether the withdrawal would be completed by the February 15 deadline set under last year's Geneva accords, saying the Soviet troops would stay if they are attacked. But diplomats here said the Soviet forces are getting ready to leave, and that a certain number had pulled out in the past 48 hours. Moscow wants Islamabad's help in achieving a cease-fire, and Mr. Vorontsov, deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, hit out at Pakistan Saturday for its alleged continued support for the mujahidin rebels.

"The Soviets would be satisfied with a cease-fire and a promise from the mujahidin that they will negotiate," a diplomat close to the talks said.

However, as the withdrawal deadline approaches, rebel leaders are becoming increasingly independent from Pakistan. There are also divisions among the seven resistance factions based in Pakistan and the eight Shi'ite rebel groups based in Iran on the need for a cease-fire and the composition of a new government in Kabul. Moderates among the rebels favour a Western-style democracy while the fundamentalist factions support the establishment of an Islamic state.

The problem remains of persuading thousands of rebel commanders who have been fighting Soviet-Afghan troops for nine years and in some cases are quite independent from the groups in Pakistan and Iran to accept a cease-fire. The rebels have rejected every cease-fire offer made by the government of Afghan President Najibullah, most recently on the new year.

"The mujahidin are smelling victory and upping the stakes," a diplomat said.

A main point of conflict between the rebels and Moscow is the Soviet insistence that the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) be represented in a coalition government or at least in a traditional council that would choose the new government and head of state. Moscow, Kabul and moderate rebels support the return of former Afghan King Zahir Shah, who was overthrown in 1973 and now lives in exile in Rome. The former monarch remains very popular in Afghanistan as his reign was a period of peace, but he has been sharply criticised by fundamentalists for his "modernist" ideas and pro-Soviet stance while on the throne.

The mujahidin oppose a communist presence in the council or a new Kabul government. Kabul authorities, encouraged by U.N. negotiators, are considering replacing the ruling party by a "liberal, democratic and nationalist" party which would represent the moderate wing of the PDPA, diplomats said.

Several government ministers in Kabul who are not PDPA members are openly in favour of the change while hard-liners such as the Senate speaker are calling urgently for a "military government to defend the (communist) revolution."

Mr. Najibullah is ready to resign but only if a viable solution is found. He has asked his advisers to look into the statutes of the new liberal party, Kabul sources close to the president said recently.

UN Envoy Decries U.S. Downing of Libyan Planes

BK0701165289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has warned that escalating tension over the U.S. downing the Libyan planes could lead to a wider conflict. Speaking in the Security Council meeting, Pakistan's ambassador, Mr S. Shah Nawaz, said the incident is the result of continuing hostilities between the two countries. He pointed out the present state of hostilities between the two countries had deep roots in development covering a decade which included the bombing of Tripoli and Banghazi in 1986 by the United States. He regretted that nothing has been done to dispel the atmosphere of suspicion and fear which led to this tragic incident and such acts could happen in future.

Party Condemns U.S. Downing of Libyan Planes

BK0701022589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] A meeting organized by the Baluchistan branch of Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Islam was held to protest the shooting down of two Libyan jets in Quetta yesterday. The meeting adopted a resolution condemning the U.S. aggression against Libya.

U.S. Posture on Libyan Chemical Plant Criticized

BK0801095789 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Dec 88 p 7

[Text] Hints from President Reagan and his spokesman that the US does not rule out "using military force" against Libya because Tripoli was supposedly building a "chemical weapons factory" are extremely dangerous. Libya has stoutly denied the allegation, and there is no reason why this should not be taken seriously, especially because the credibility of America's allegations against Libya has always been in doubt. In 1986, President Reagan sent his warplanes to attack targets in Tripoli and Banghazi. This was claimed to be a retaliation for what Washington said was Libya's role in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque frequented by US servicemen. To this day America has not been able to produce any credible evidence to prove Libya's involvement in that incident.

It is an open secret that the US President and America's powerful Zionist lobby do not like Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to be where he is and would be happy if he could shomehow be overthrown. If that was the purpose of the 1986 air strikes, the enterprise failed miserably. Not only that, Washington paid a heavy price for its blatant aggression. There was a wave of resentment throughout the world, especially the Arab countries, and saner elements even within the United States condemned the American action. The reaction is likely to be even more intense this time if Washington repeats its 1986 performance. The Arab League and the Organisation for African Unity have been quick to react. While the latter has expressed its concern, the former has warned of grave consequences. These warnings should not be taken lightly.

There is an important moral aspect too to the issue that cannot be overlooked. Washington has dozens of factories that have given it the dubious distinction of being the owner of "the largest stock of chemical arms in the world". The point to ponder is whether abstinence from production or possession of weapons of mass murder, including the chemical variety, is the bounden duty of developing countries like Libya and not of the advanced ones like the US. If charity begins at home, the US should live up to its "extreme concern" in this area and set an example by shedding its excess baggage of the chemical arms stockpile. Another related point is some developed countries' stand on the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

Among other things, this prohibits the "use" of chemical weapons, not its development. Thanks to the reservations expressed by some of the developed countries, including the US, it has not been possible so far for the international community to agree on a covenant banning the development of chemical weapons. The scheduled conference in Paris on January 6 should be an occasion for these developed countries to be more forthcoming and consistent in precept and action. They should withdraw their objections to a ban on the development of chemical weapons as well.

There is already a draft convention on the table for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriogical (biological) weapons and on the destruction of such weapons. Both the developed and the developing countries must agree to adopt it unanimously so that the present double standard practised by some advanced nations in this respect ceases to mock the world community as an ugly reality.